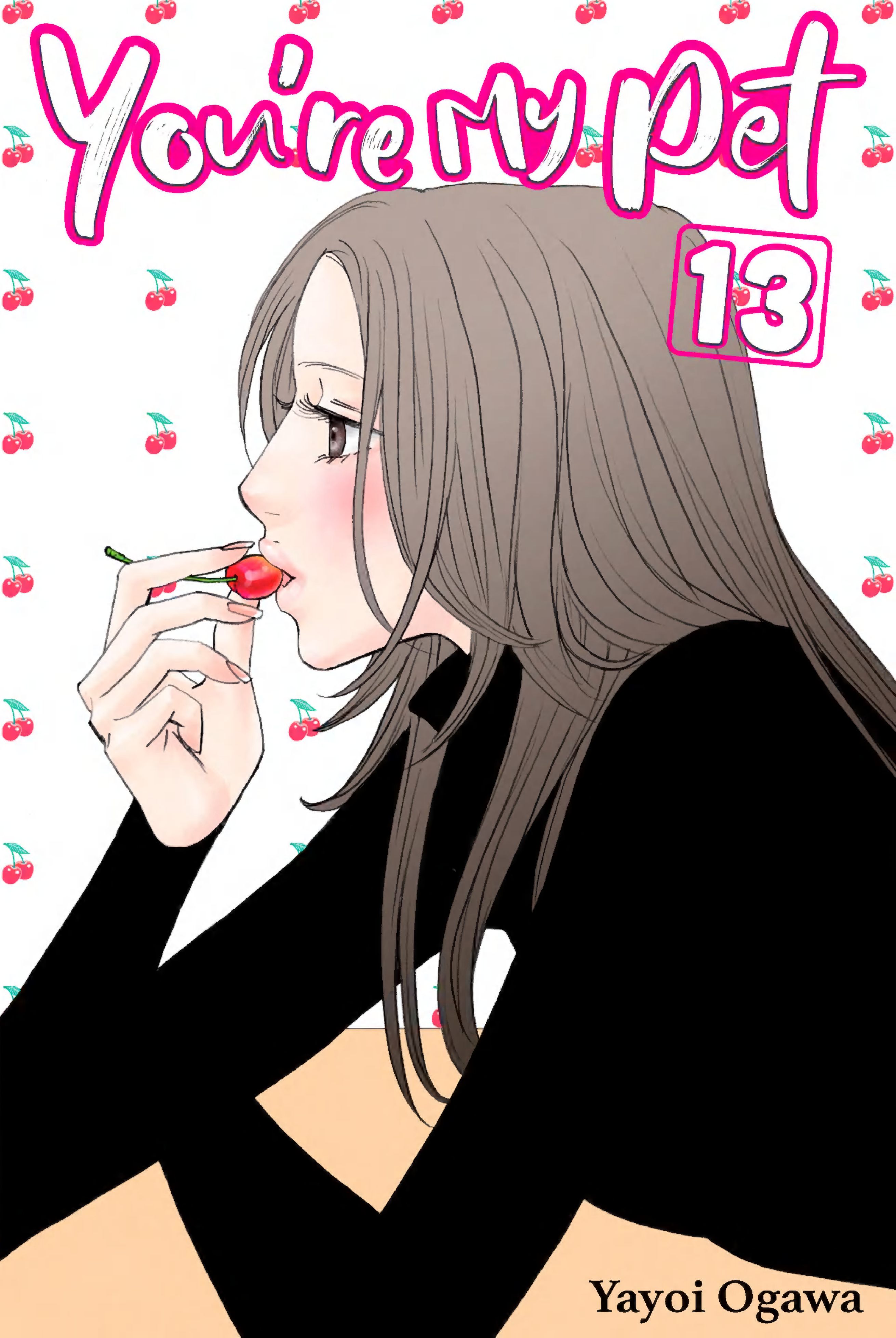
You're my Pet
13
Yayoi Ogawa

BY YAYOI OGAWA

You're My Pet

VOL. 13

You're my Pet

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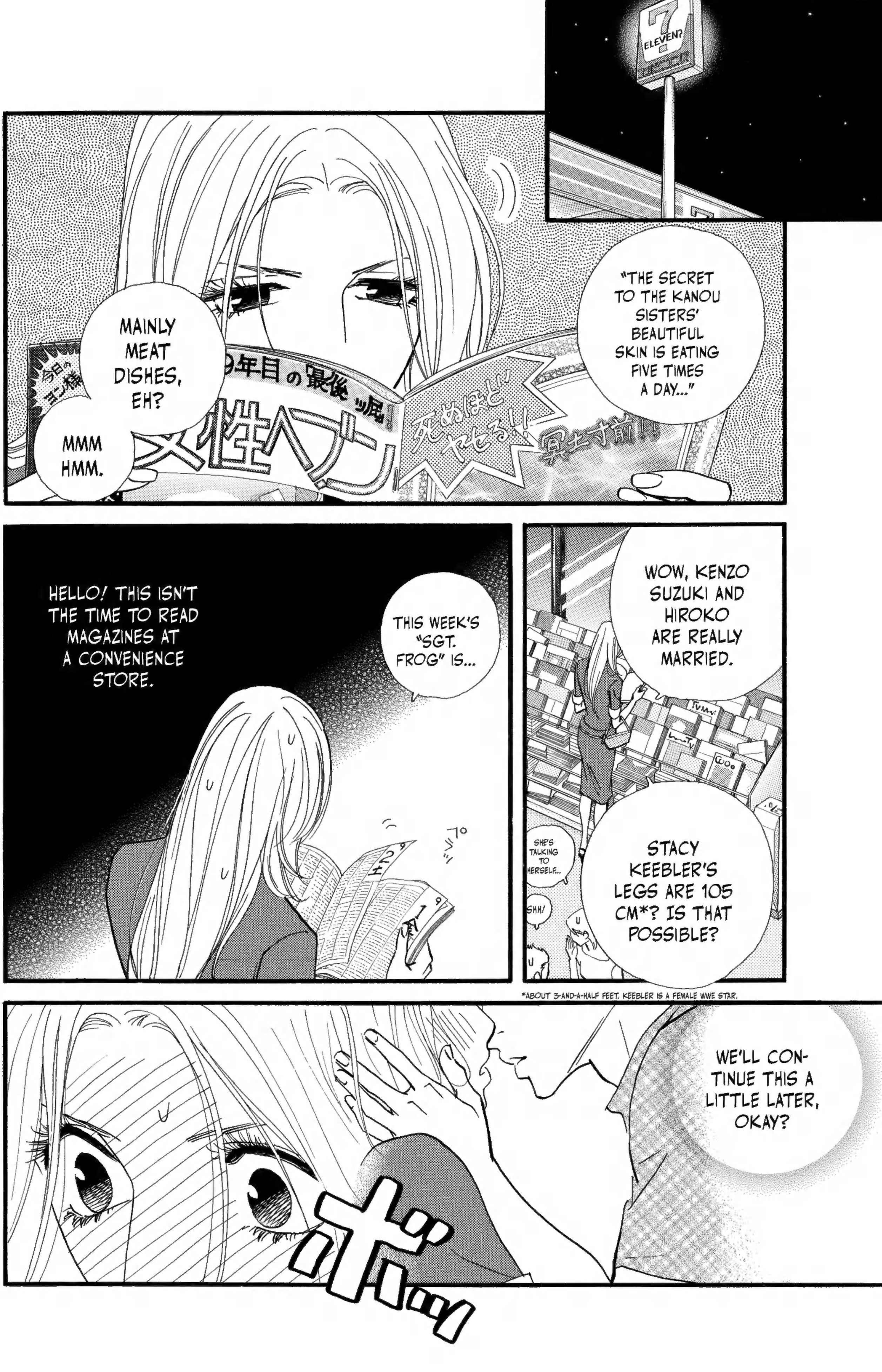
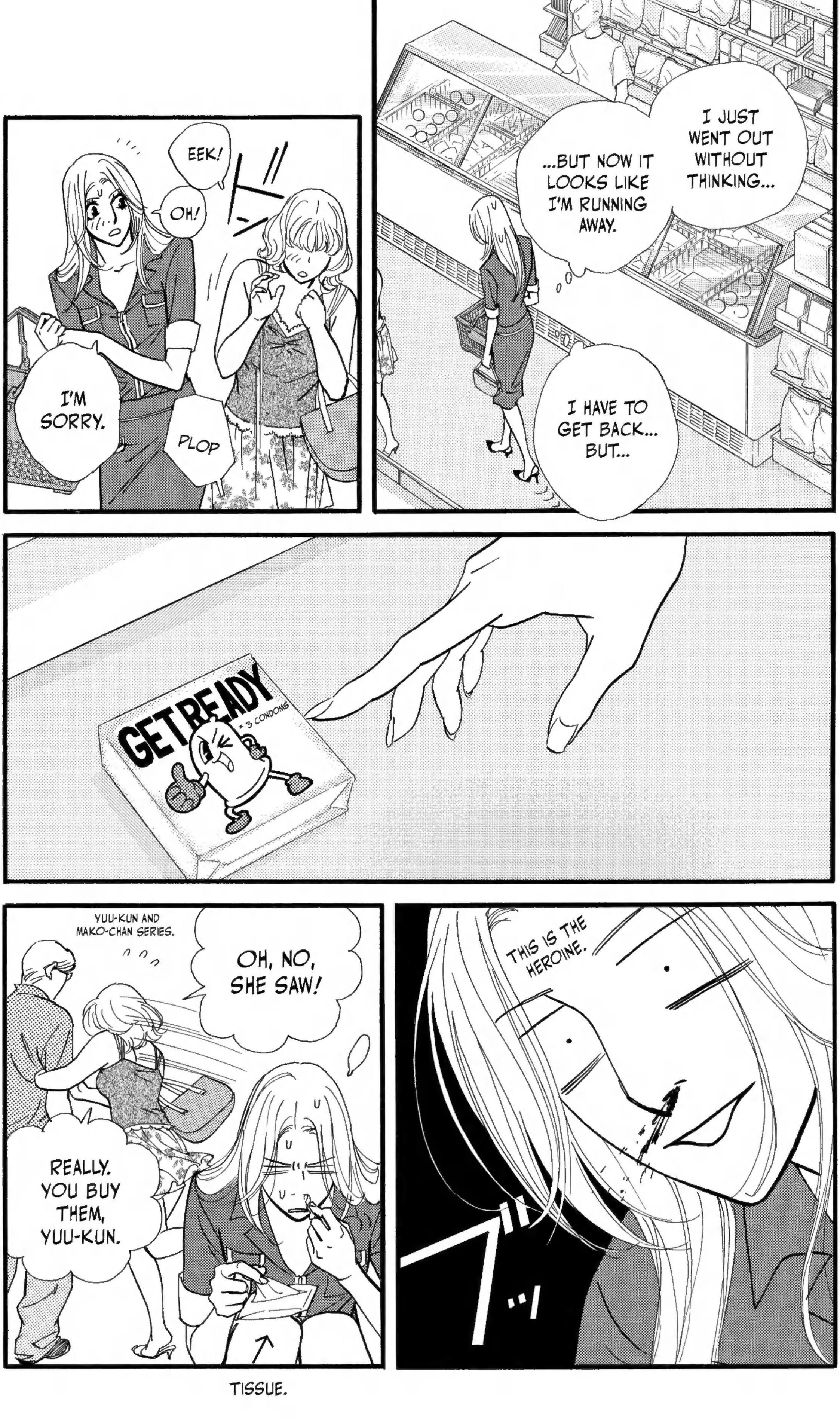
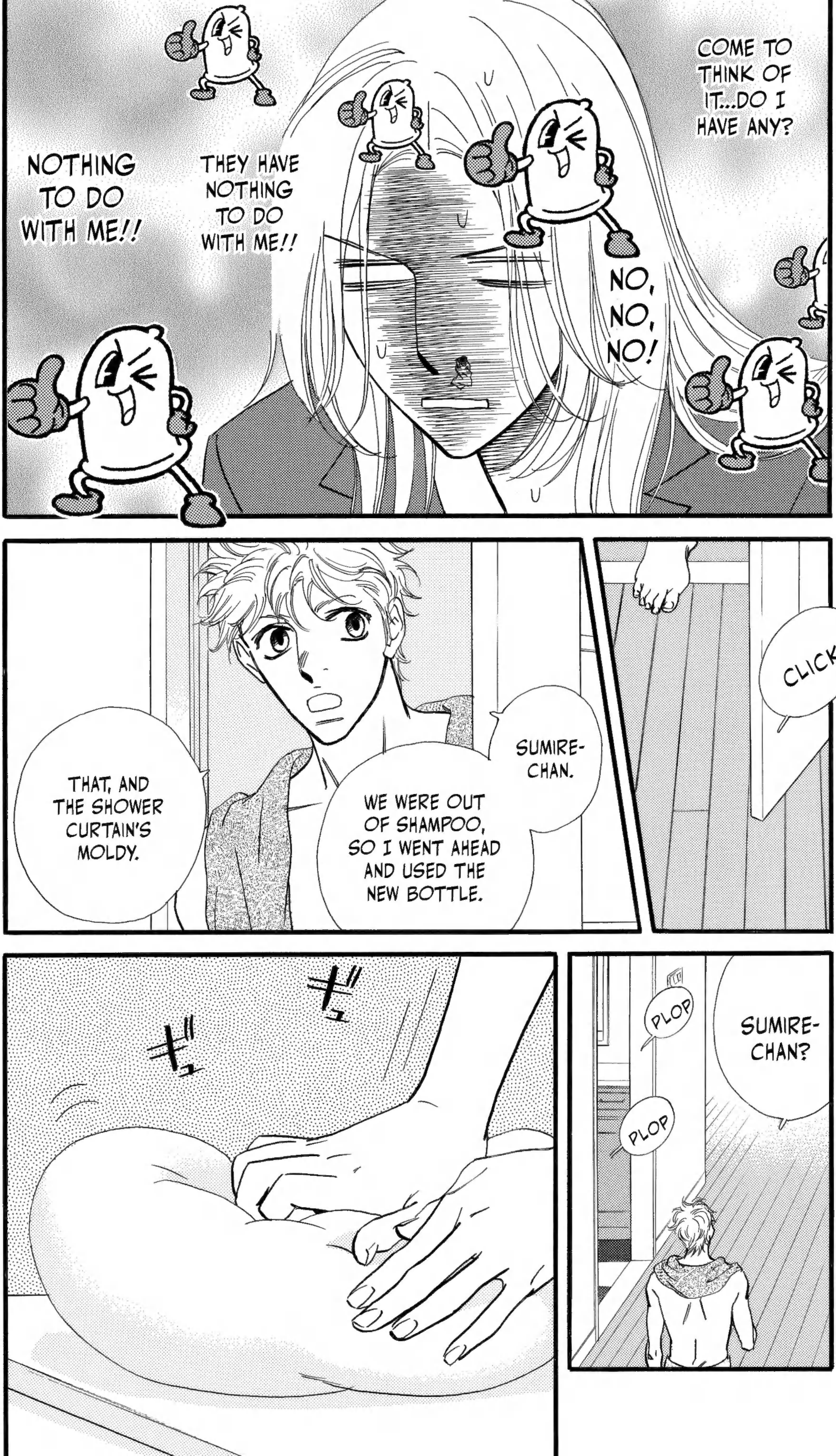
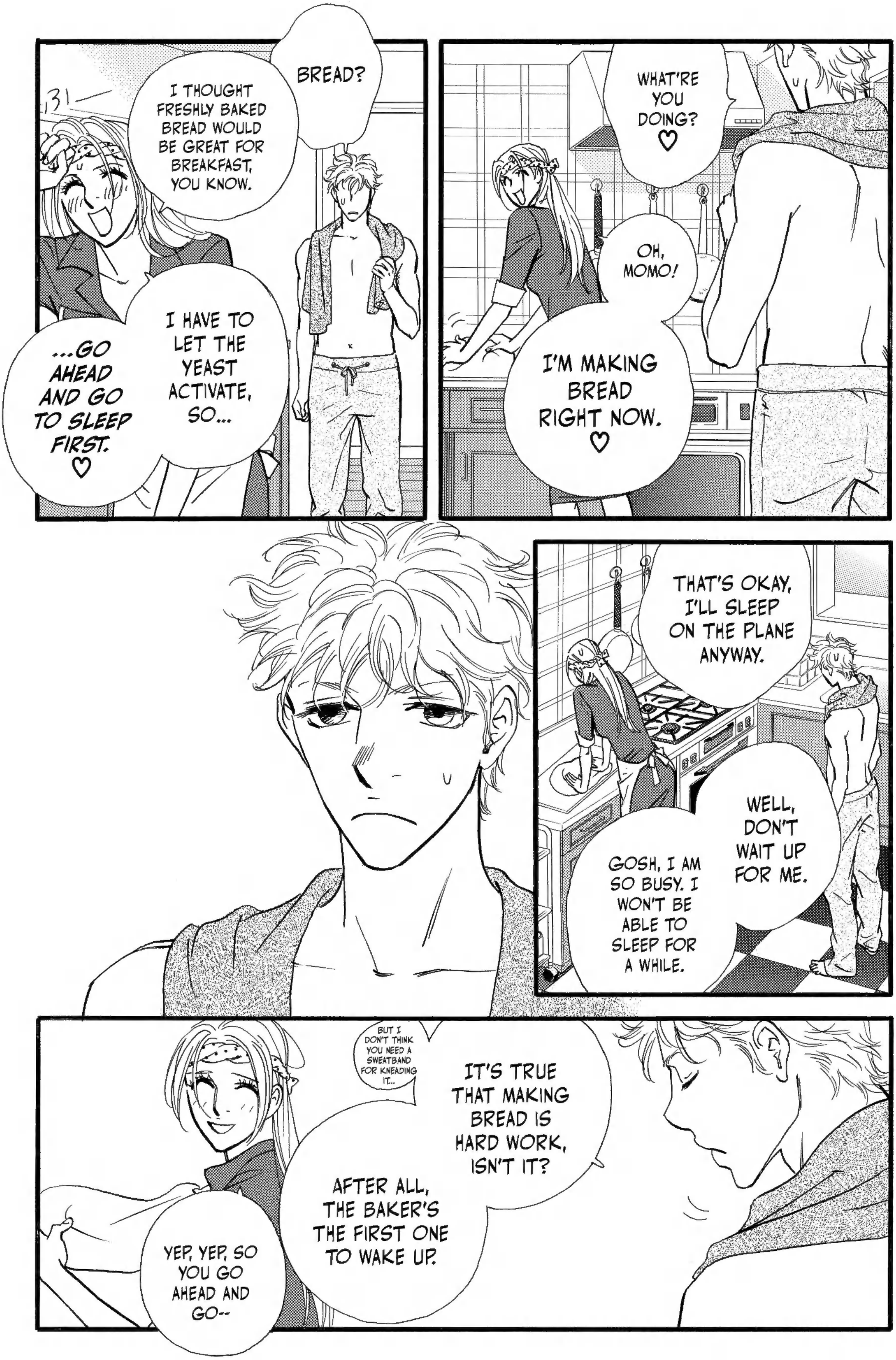


*ABOUT 3-AND-A-HALF FEET. KEEBLER IS A FEMALE WWE STAR.

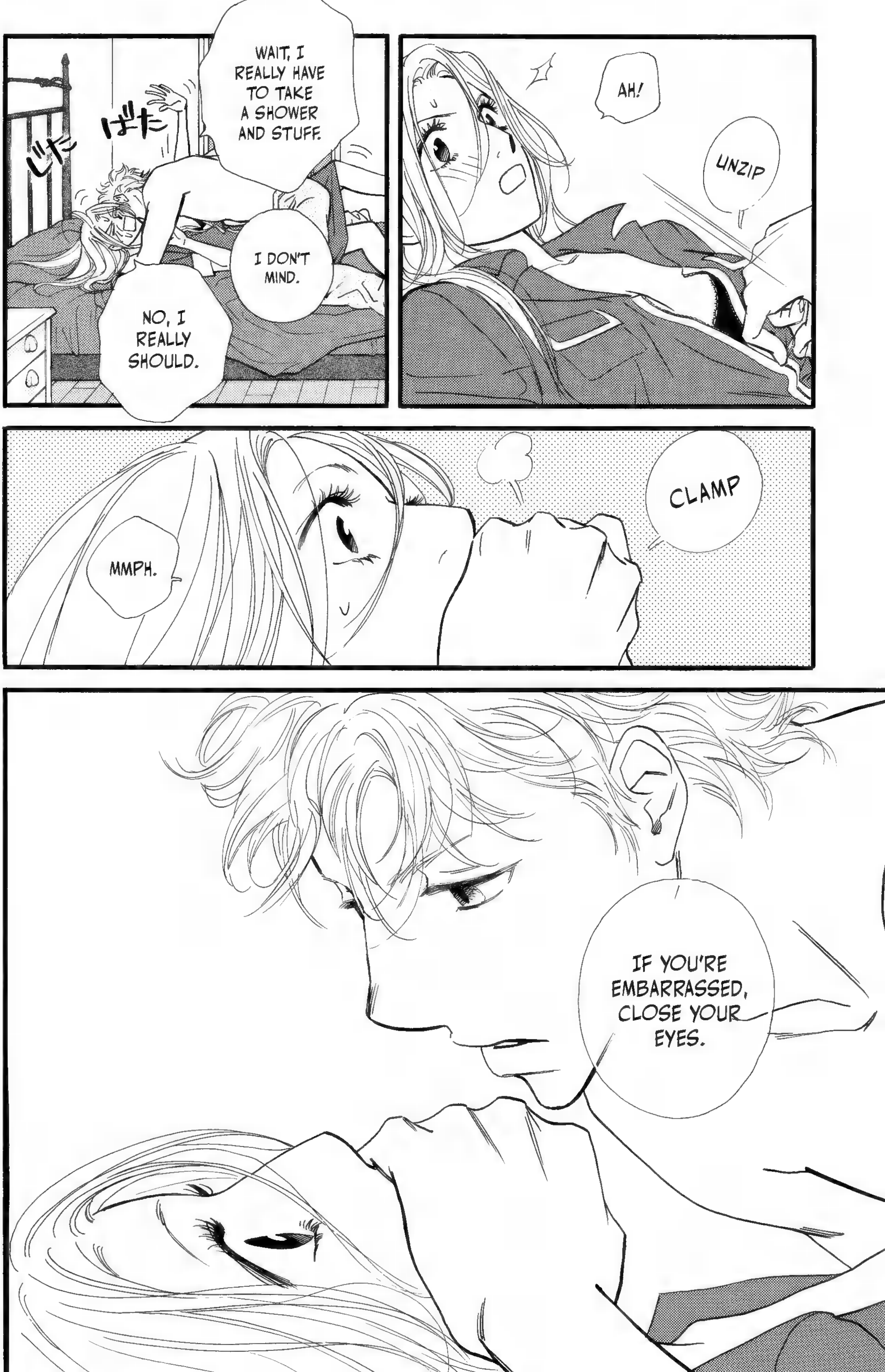

EEK!
OH!
I'M SORRY.
PLOP
I JUST WENT OUT WITHOUT THINKING...
...BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY.
I HAVE TO GET BACK... BUT...
GET READY
* 3 CONDOMS
YUU-KUN AND MAKO-CHAN SERIES.
OH, NO, SHE SAW!
REALLY. YOU BUY THEM, YUU-KUN.
THIS IS THE HEROINE.
TISSUE.


COME TO THINK OF IT...DO I HAVE ANY?
NO, NO, NO!
THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!
CLICK
SUMIRE-CHAN.
WE WERE OUT OF SHAMPOO, SO I WENT AHEAD AND USED THE NEW BOTTLE.
THAT, AND THE SHOWER CURTAIN'S MOLDY.
SUMIRE-CHAN?
PLOP
PLOP


WHAT'RE YOU DOING? ♡
OH, MOMO!
I'M MAKING BREAD RIGHT NOW. ♡
BREAD?
I THOUGHT FRESHLY BAKED BREAD WOULD BE GREAT FOR BREAKFAST, YOU KNOW.
I HAVE TO LET THE YEAST ACTIVATE, SO...
...GO AHEAD AND GO TO SLEEP FIRST. ♡
THAT'S OKAY, I'LL SLEEP ON THE PLANE ANYWAY.
WELL, DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME.
GOSH, I AM SO BUSY. I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE.
IT'S TRUE THAT MAKING BREAD IS HARD WORK, ISN'T IT?
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU NEED A SWEATBAND FOR KNEADING IT...
AFTER ALL, THE BAKER'S THE FIRST ONE TO WAKE UP.
YEP, YEP, SO YOU GO AHEAD AND GO--

SO, LIKE, YOU'RE JAM-OJI-SAN* OR SOME-THING?!
EEEK!
MOMO GONE WILD?!
*JAM-OJI-SAN IS A BAKER FROM THE ANIME "ANPAN MAN."
WAIT A MIN--
I WON'T!
TOO FAST!!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK SO LONG...

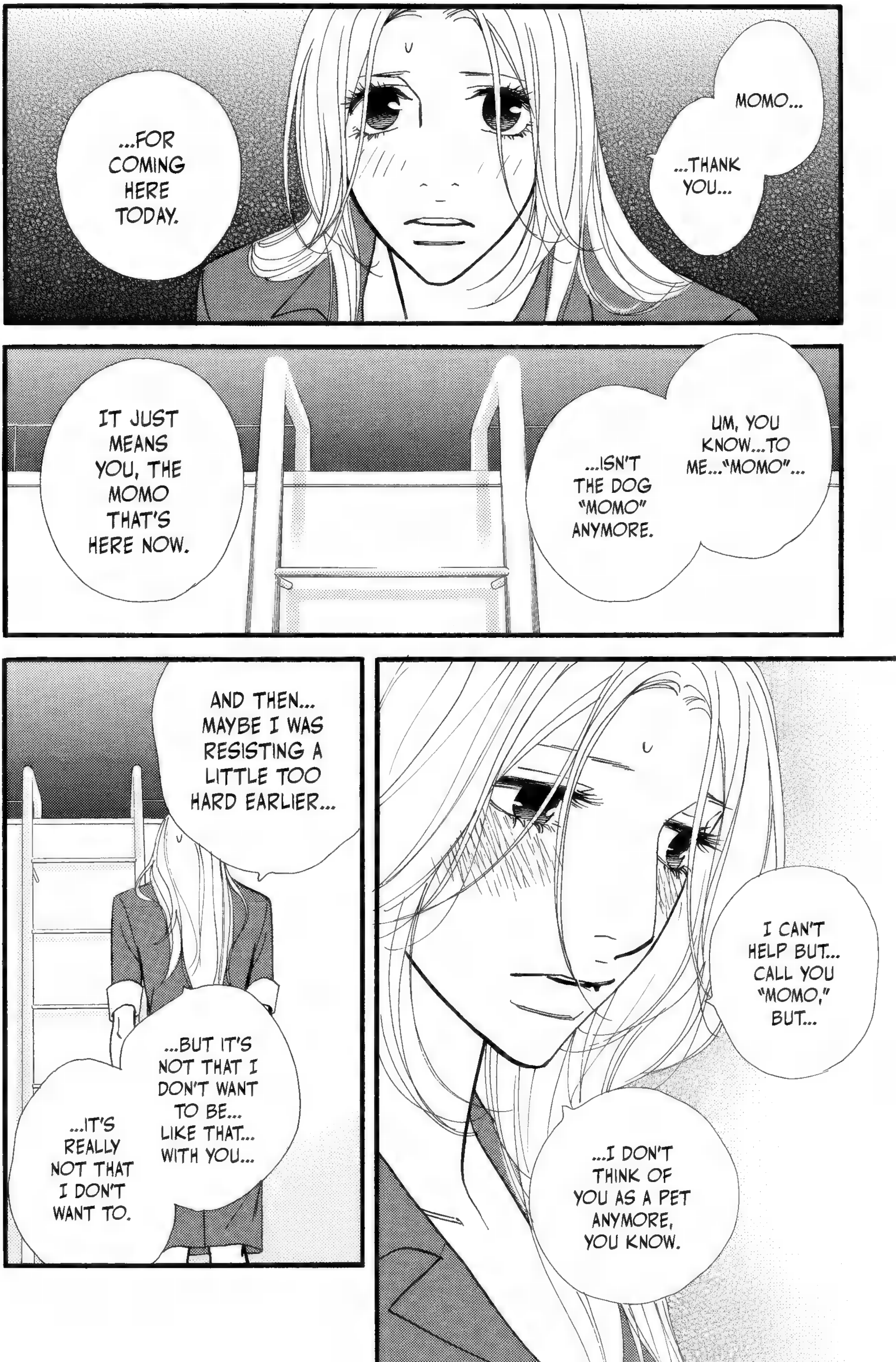
I'VE...
...LOVED YOU ALL THIS TIME.
ALL THIS TIME?
ALL THIS TIME, EVEN WHEN...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CAMEL CLUTCH.
MORE SAKE, MR. REINDEER!
IT'S MINE.
ガーン
TIMES LIKE THIS AND...
...TIMES LIKE THAT AND...
...EVEN TIMES LIKE THAT?
THE CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF ABUSE.
I'M INHUMAN IF I REJECT HIM NOW...
I HAVE TO LET HIM IN...
BUT I'M NOT READY...


AH!
UNZIP
WAIT, I REALLY HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER AND STUFF.
じた ばた
I DON'T MIND.
NO, I REALLY SHOULD.
CLAMP
MMPH.
IF YOU'RE EMBARRASSED, CLOSE YOUR EYES.

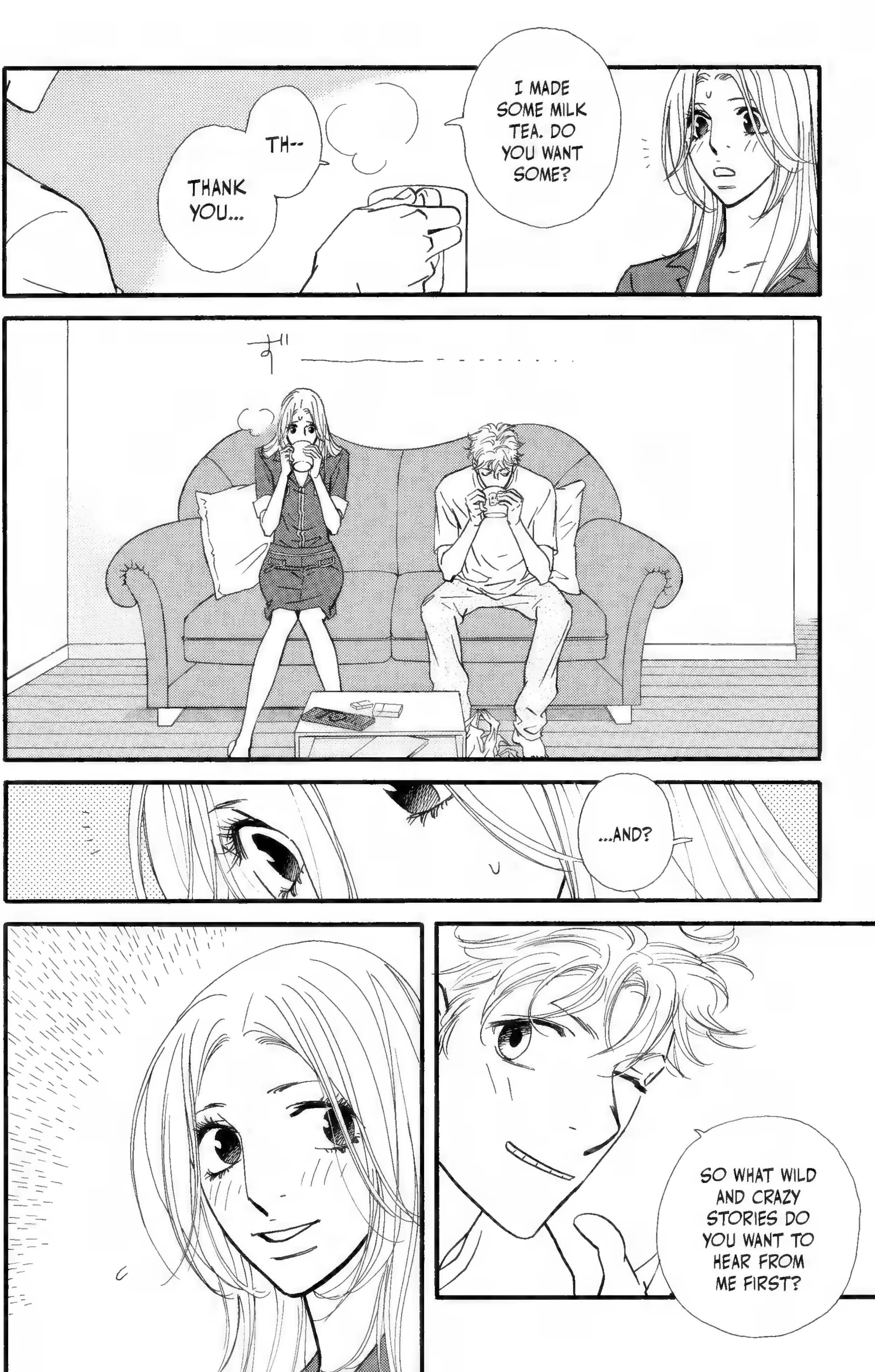
I CAN'T, AFTER...
NEVER MIND.
I GIVE UP.

I FEEL LIKE, YOU KNOW, THE BAD GUY WHO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BAD BREAKUP.
I THOUGHT PLAYING THAT KIND OF JERK WAS OKAY ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING WAY TOO HARD TO AVOID ME, SUMIRE-CHAN. SO I GIVE UP.
I...
I'M NOT TRYING TO AVOID YOU, YOU KNOW.
HONESTLY... HEY, MOMO...
MOMO...
I'M...
...NOT...
..."MOMO" ANYMORE.

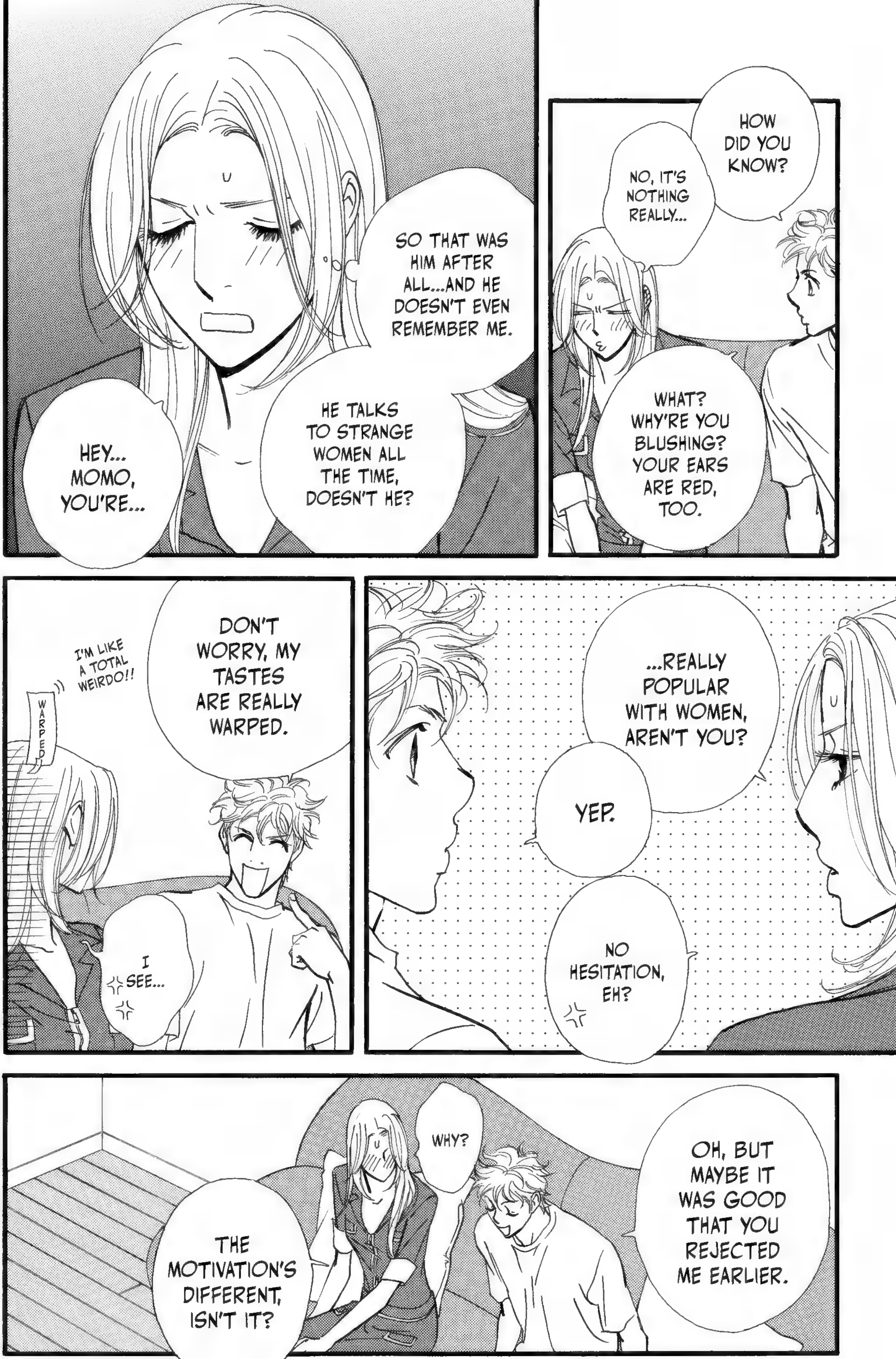
ズキッ
NO.
じわっ
I HURT HIM.
THIS TIME I REALLY HURT HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO PART LIKE THIS.
MOMO...

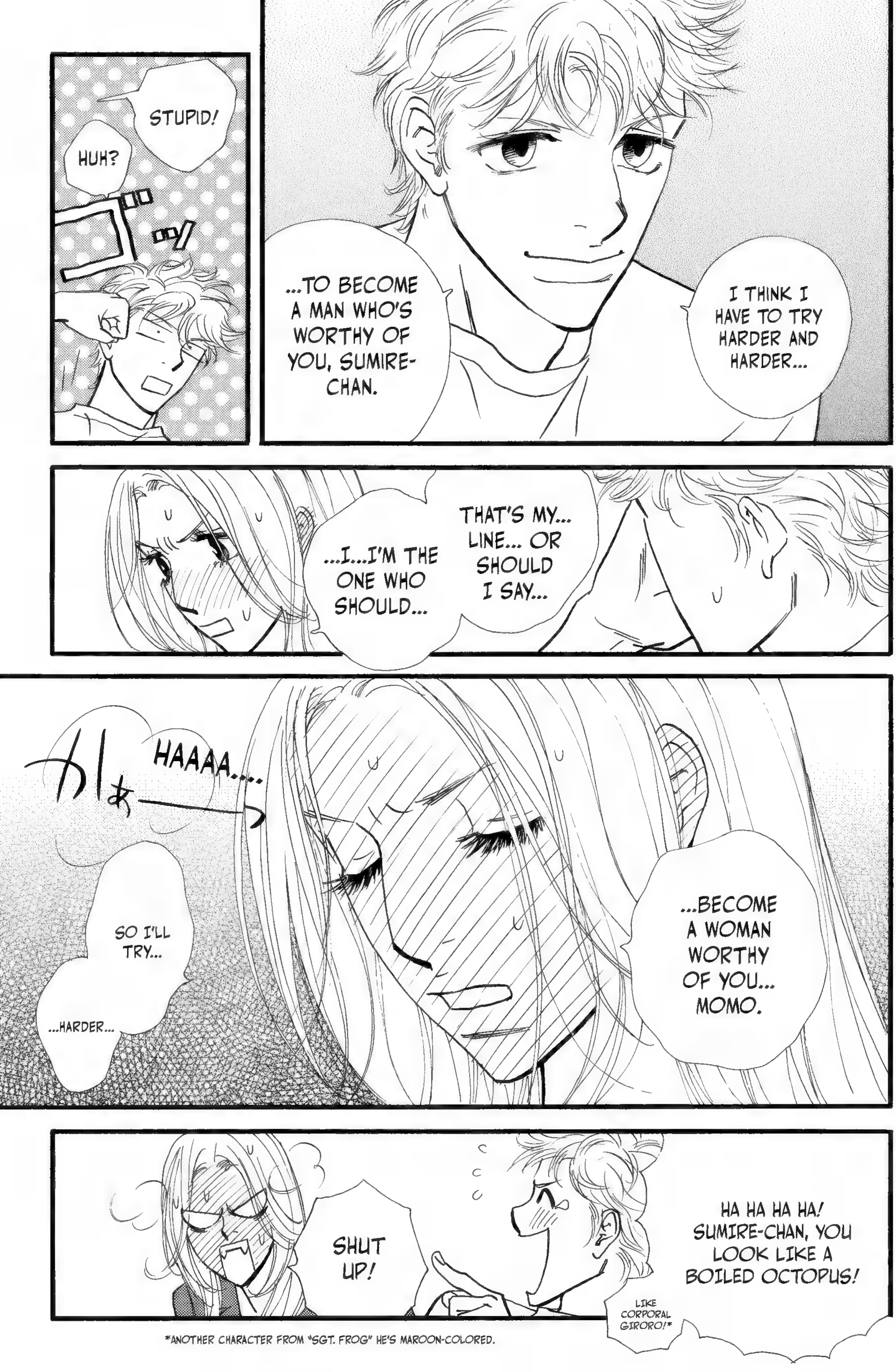

MOMO...
...THANK YOU...
...FOR COMING HERE TODAY.
UM, YOU KNOW...TO ME..."MOMO"...
...ISN'T THE DOG "MOMO" ANYMORE.
IT JUST MEANS YOU, THE MOMO THAT'S HERE NOW.
I CAN'T HELP BUT... CALL YOU "MOMO," BUT...
...I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS A PET ANYMORE, YOU KNOW.
AND THEN... MAYBE I WAS RESISTING A LITTLE TOO HARD EARLIER...
...BUT IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO BE... LIKE THAT... WITH YOU...
...IT'S REALLY NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO.

IT'S TRUE I'M STILL SAD OVER... HASUMI-SENPAI, BUT...
...IT'S NOT LIKE A LINGERING AFFECTION OR ANYTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S A LITTLE... THE CHANGE WAS SO FAST THAT...
...MY EMOTIONS CAN'T KEEP UP, OR SHOULD I SAY...
...I'M CRAZY EMBARRASSED, OR MAYBE...
...I...ONLY KNOW... MOMO THE PET, AND...
...IT SOUNDS STRANGE BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT...
...MAYBE YOU COULD SAY THAT I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, MOMO.
LIKE WHAT KIND OF THINGS?
HUH?!
AAHH!
H-HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?
THE WHOLE TIME.
OH, OH NO, I...
MOMO, YOU'RE ALWAYS IN YOUR DOG HOUSE... NO, THAT'S NOT IT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE LOFT, AND... HA HA HA HA HA.
SO SHE REALLY DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS A PET ANYMORE...
HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?

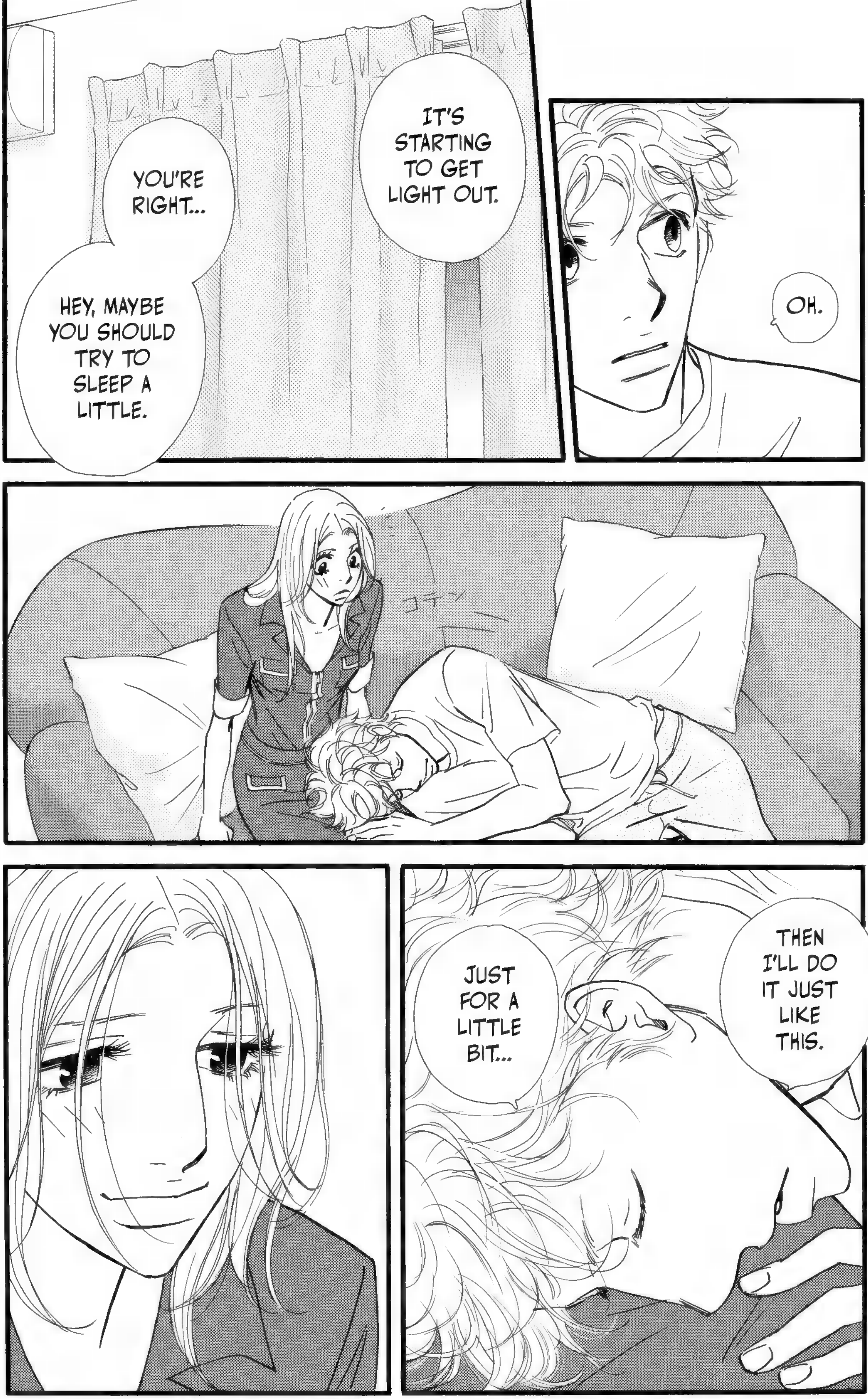

I MADE SOME MILK TEA. DO YOU WANT SOME?
TH--
THANK YOU...
ず''
...AND?
SO WHAT WILD AND CRAZY STORIES DO YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM ME FIRST?

...AND SO AT THE TIME, I COULDN'T EVEN TAKE THE SUBWAY.
BUT I HAD TO CATCH A 11 O'CLOCK PLANE REALLY SOON...
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?
TOOK SOME PILLS AND KNOCKED MYSELF OUT.
WHOA, THAT'S DANGEROUS. YOU COULD HAVE DIED ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YEAH, PEOPLE TOLD ME AFTER THE FACT.
WHEN DID YOU LEAVE HOME?
UMM, I WAS AT HOME FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTER I CAME BACK TO JAPAN.
IT WAS ABOUT THEN THAT I GUEST STARRED AS THE PRINCE AND STUFF.
THEN... YOU KNOW, MAYBE...
...YOU'VE DANCED AT A THEATRE IN CHIBA BEFORE?
CHIBA?
OH YEAH, I DID, AT SOME PLACE THEY HAD JUST BUILT.

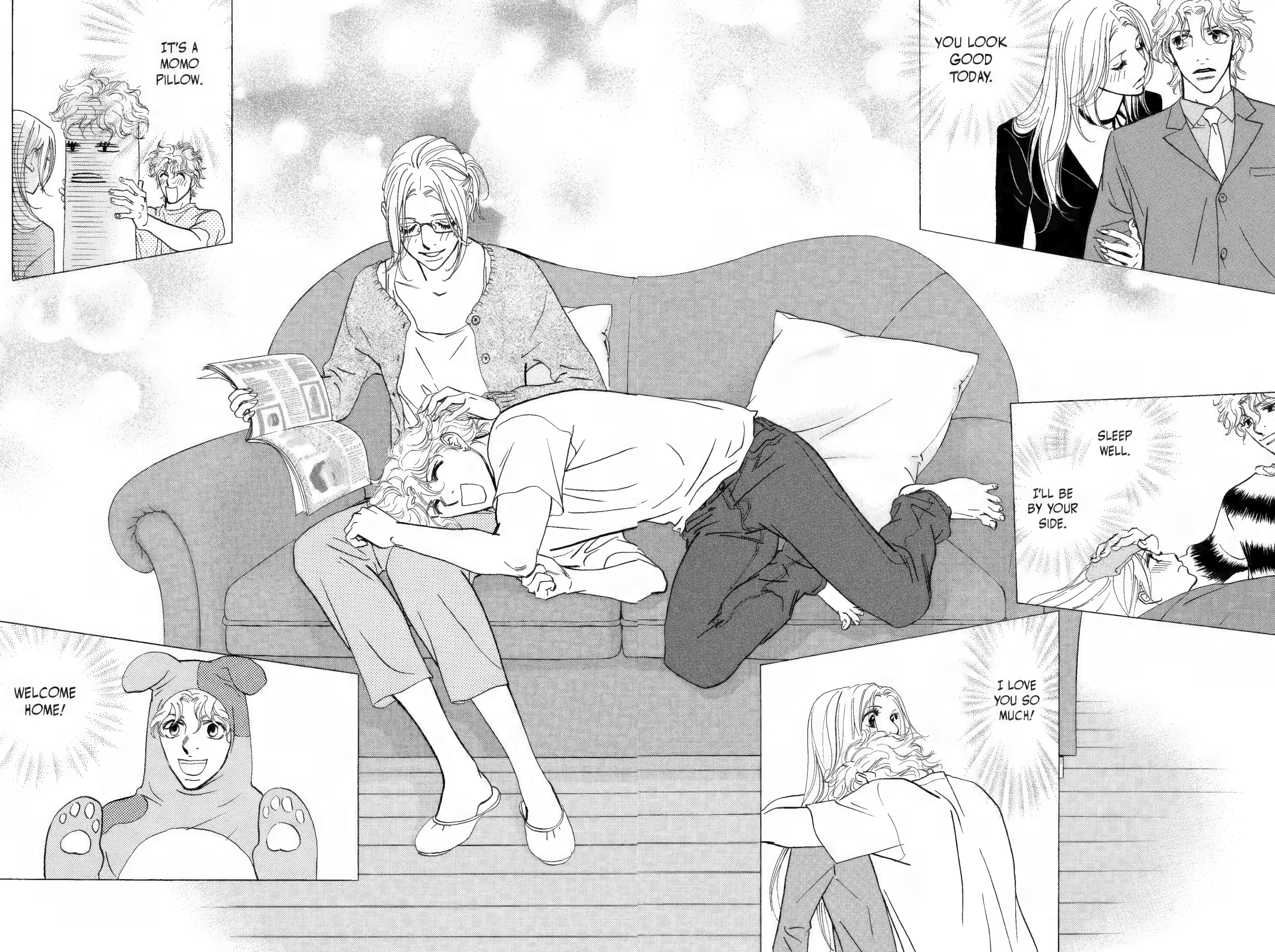

SO THAT WAS HIM AFTER ALL...AND HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME.
HE TALKS TO STRANGE WOMEN ALL THE TIME, DOESN'T HE?
HEY... MOMO, YOU'RE...
WHAT? WHY'RE YOU BLUSHING? YOUR EARS ARE RED, TOO.
NO, IT'S NOTHING REALLY...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
...REALLY POPULAR WITH WOMEN, AREN'T YOU?
YEP.
NO HESITATION, EH?
DON'T WORRY, MY TASTES ARE REALLY WARPED.
I'M LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO!!
WARPED
I SEE...
OH, BUT MAYBE IT WAS GOOD THAT YOU REJECTED ME EARLIER.
WHY?
THE MOTIVATION'S DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT?

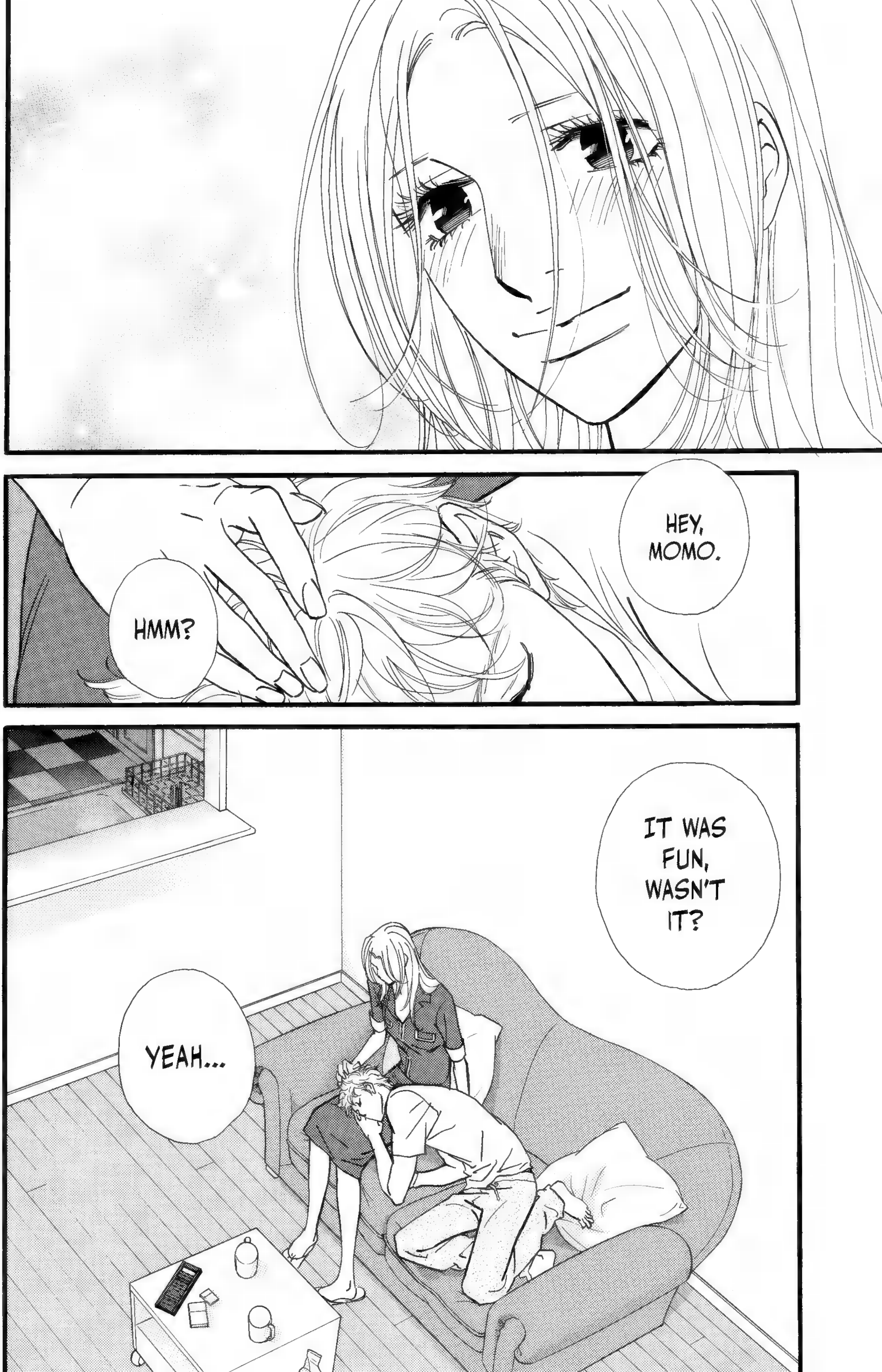


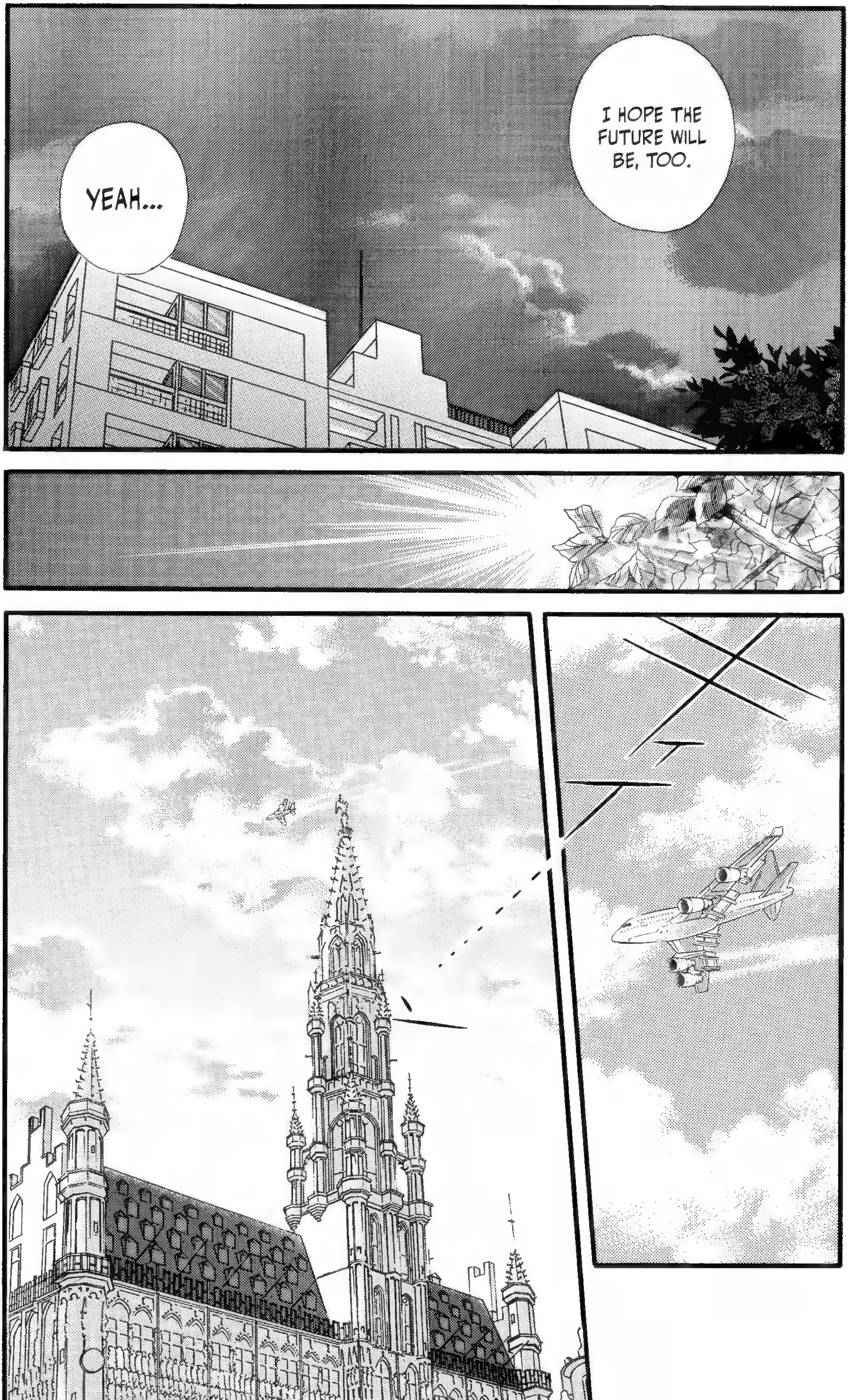
*ANOTHER CHARACTER FROM "SGT. FROG" HE'S MAROON-COLORED.


OH.
IT'S STARTING TO GET LIGHT OUT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
HEY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY TO SLEEP A LITTLE.
THEN I'LL DO IT JUST LIKE THIS.
JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT...

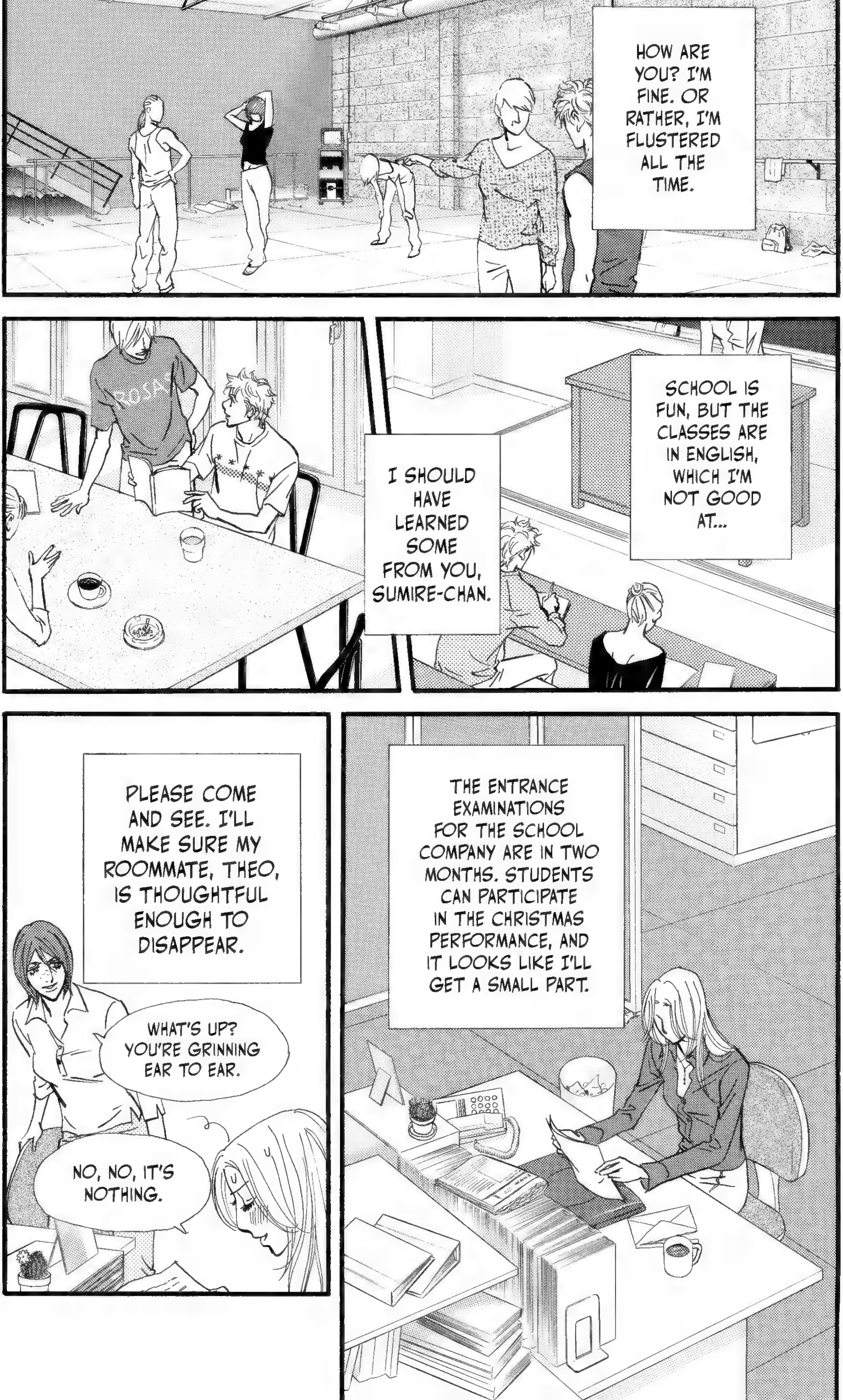
IN THAT CASE, I THINK I'LL CALL YOU...
...MOMO.
TA-DA!
WELCOME TO BISTRO MOMO!
MMM, FEELS GOOD.
SHUT UP.
ASK ME WHERE MY MAGIC ITCHY SPOT IS.
STOP IT!
THAT'S NOT THE MOMO I KNOW.


YOU LOOK GOOD TODAY.
IT'S A MOMO PILLOW.
SLEEP WELL.
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
WELCOME HOME!


HEY, MOMO.
HMM?
IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?
YEAH...


I HOPE THE FUTURE WILL BE, TOO.
YEAH...

STEP
UMM...
...IT'S ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THIS ROAD, RIGHT?
DEAR SUMIRE-CHAN...
THIS IS TAKESHI GOUDA'S NEW LIFE.

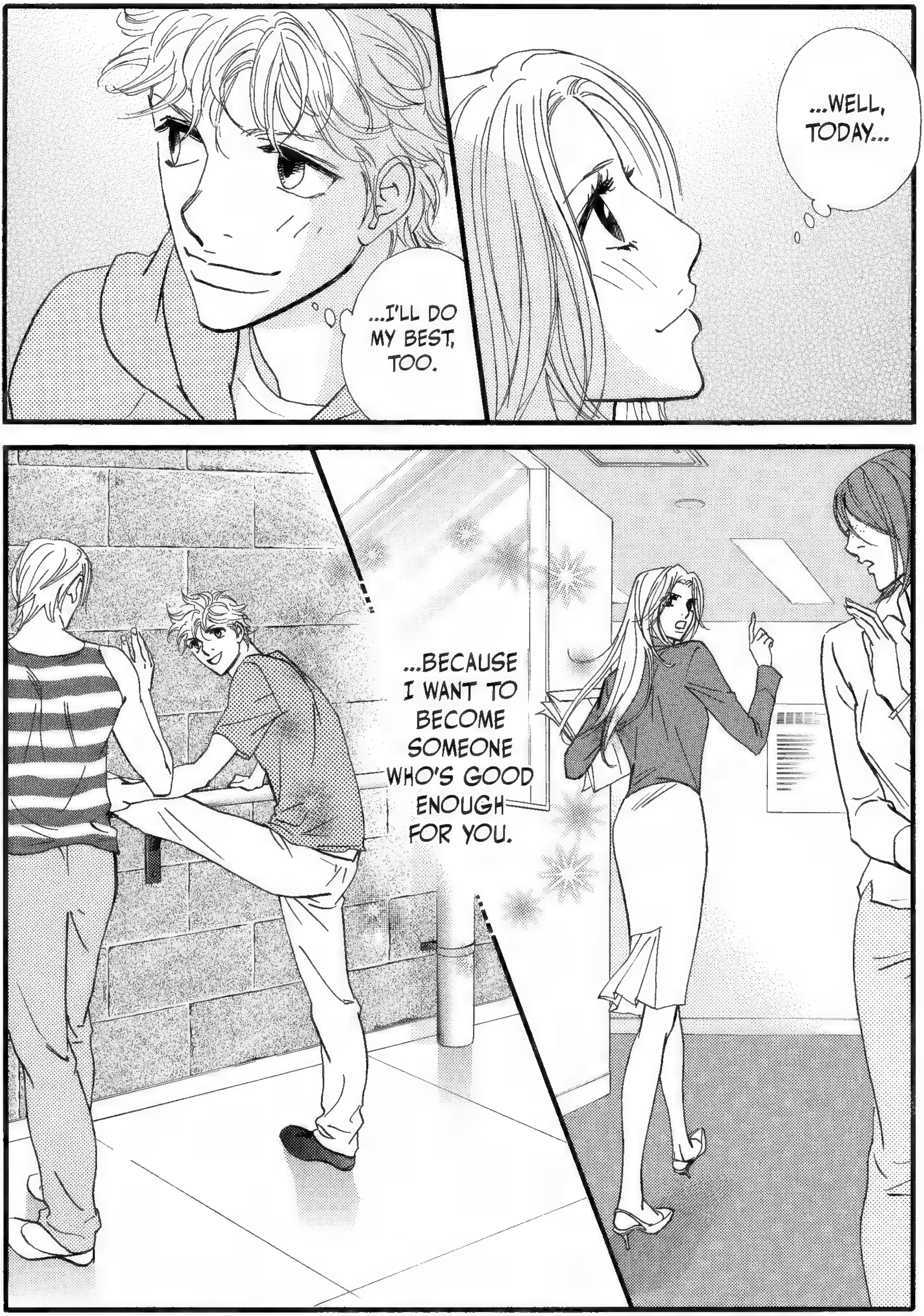

HOW ARE YOU? I'M FINE. OR RATHER, I'M FLUSTERED ALL THE TIME.
SCHOOL IS FUN, BUT THE CLASSES ARE IN ENGLISH, WHICH I'M NOT GOOD AT...
I SHOULD HAVE LEARNED SOME FROM YOU, SUMIRE-CHAN.
ROSAS
THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL COMPANY ARE IN TWO MONTHS. STUDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL GET A SMALL PART.
PLEASE COME AND SEE. I'LL MAKE SURE MY ROOMMATE, THEO, IS THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO DISAPPEAR.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE GRINNING EAR TO EAR.
NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING.

*LIKE MOST ADULT JAPANESE PEOPLE, SUMIRE'S WRITING STYLE IS VERY FORMAL.

*ONLY OLD MEN AND SOME JAPANESE MOBSTERS WEAR STOMACH WARMERS (HARAMAKI). THEY ARE UNFASHIONABLE.

ALSO, I ABSENTMINDEDLY PURCHASED TWO IDENTICAL KEY CHAINS, SO PLEASE USE THE ONE I HAVE ENCLOSED.
WHY CAN'T SHE BE HONEST AND SAY WE'LL USE THESE AS A MATCHING SET?
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
YOURS, SUMIRE.
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.

BECAUSE I HAVE YOU...

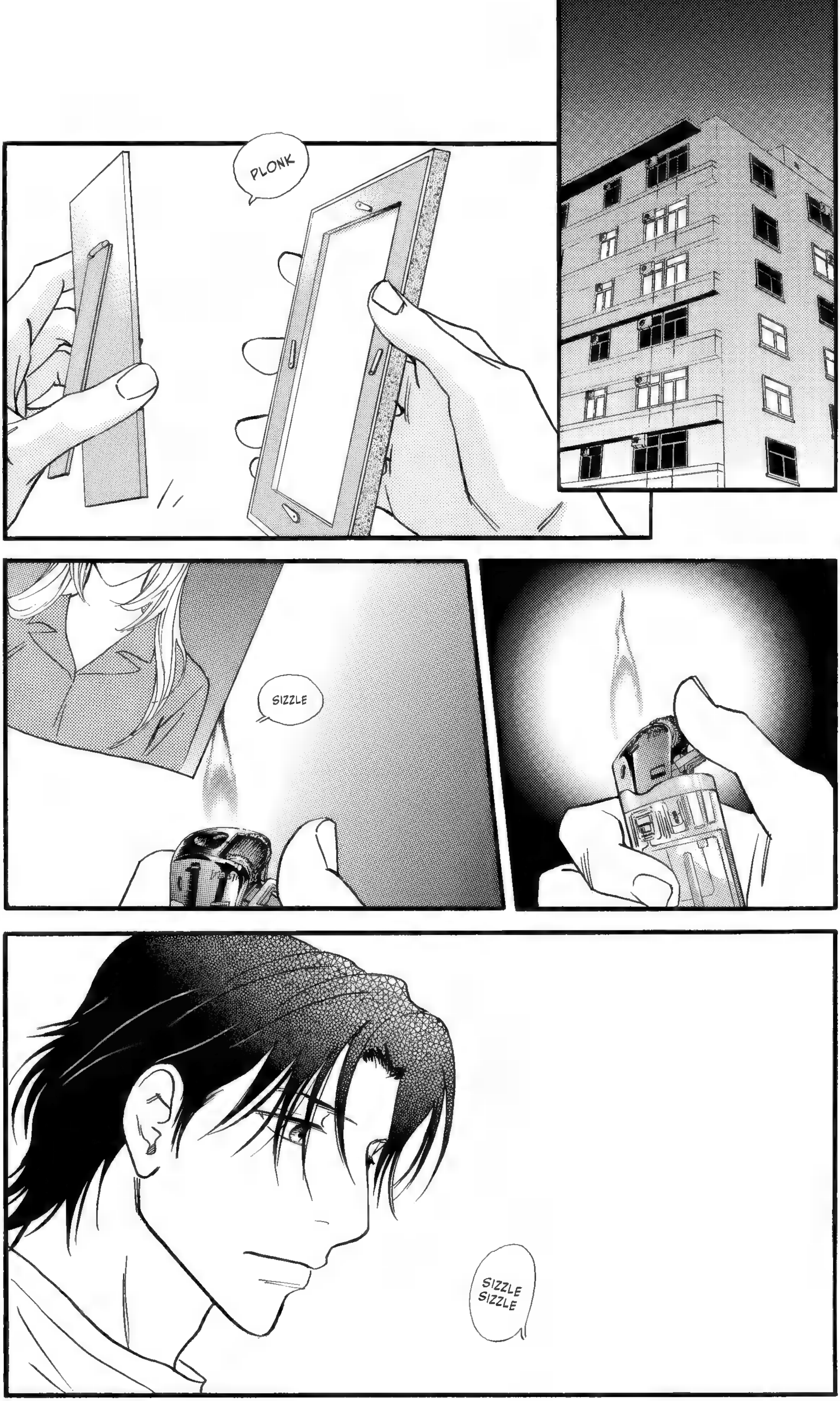


RULE 72: GUARDIAN

SUKENARI COMMENTARY! MINI-REPORT ON BELGIUM.

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM--ITS OFFICIAL NAME--IS A LITTLE SMALLER THAN KYUSHU.* IT'S A COUNTRY FOR GOURMETS, WITH MUSSELS, BELGIAN BEER AND, DON'T FORGET, BELGIAN CHOCOLATE. BRUSSELS, WHERE THE TWO CHARACTERS ARE RIGHT NOW, IS THE CAPITOL. IT IS ABOUT 40 MINUTES BY EXPRESS TRAIN FROM BRUSSELS TO ANTWERP, WHERE RUMI LIVES. BY THE WAY, THE WAVY-HAIRED MAN ABOVE IS THAT ALIEN WHO CAME TO TAKE IWAYA-SAN BACK, ISN'T HE? WHY IS HE IN BRUSSELS?

*ABOUT THE SIZE OF MARYLAND.


PLONK
SIZZLE
SIZZLE SIZZLE

"PLEASE BREAK UP WITH ME."
"THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE I REALLY CARE ABOUT."
FIZZLE
OW. OW. OW.
WHOOPS.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU'VE CRUSHED ME.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE...
...FORCED HER TO STAY.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT LOSING YOU...
...COULD BE SO HARD?
PHEW! IT MAKES YOU FEEL ALIVE, DOESN'T IT?
IT'S A SAUNA OUTSIDE! REALLY!
HUH?

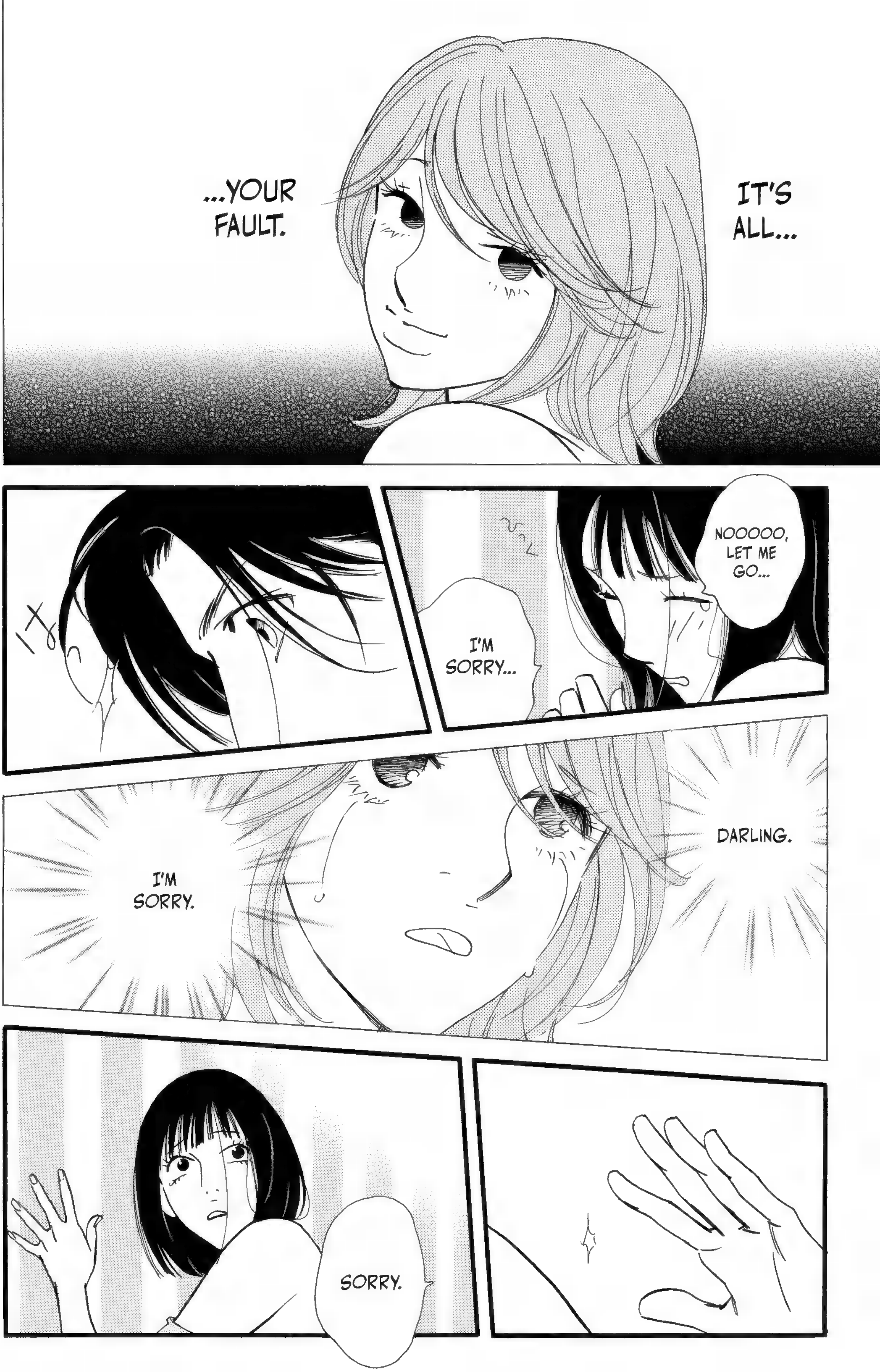
THAT'S STRANGE. YOU'RE USUALLY THE GUY WHO ALWAYS LOOKS COOL AND HAS HIS NECKTIE TIED ALL NICE AND PROPER.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOUR HAIR LOOKS A BIT MESSY, TOO.
ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR LOOK?
DID I GUESS RIGHT?
OH YEAH, DID YOU SEE THE NEW GIRL WHO JUST CAME TO THE SATELLITE EDITION?
SHE'S WEARING ANOTHER AMAZING SKIRT TODAY--
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...COULD YOU PLEASE BE QUIET?
I'M BUSY.
YEAH.
I'M SORRY...
HAS HE REALLY LOST IT?

EXCUUSE MEE.
I'M FROM THE SATELLITE EDITION, AAAAND...
...THIS IS THE DATA WE'D BORROWEED.
OH... THANKS.
UUMM, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU NEVER GO WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU OUT FOR A DRINK?
WHAT?
NOT REALLY...
キョロ
キョロ
THEEN, HOW ABOUT GOING FOR A DRINK WITH ME TONIIGHT?
I'M A NEWBIE, SO I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU TEACH ME THIS AND THAAT.
...

SOORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ME HOME.
I HAD SO MUCH FUN, I DRANK TOO MUUCH.
THEN, I'LL BE GOING NOW...
OH! WAIT! PLEASE COME IN!
PLEASE HAVE SOME COFFEE OR SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GOO.
TO BE HONEST...I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND AND...
...I'M SO LOONEELY...

JUST LIKE THAT...
HA HA. I HEARD HE WAS TOUGH TO CRACK, BUT THAT WAS EASY.
...YOU FLIRT WITH EVERYONE, DON'T YOU?
TEE HEE, HASUMI-SAN, YOU'RE A GOOD KISSER.
I BET YOU PLAY AROUND QUITE A BIT, DON'T YOU?
TASTES LIKE SAND.
OW!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT! JUST A--
NO--IT HURTS!
DON'T BE SO ROUGH!
GRAB
EEEK!
YOU'RE LOUD, AREN'T YOU?
WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU?
HIC...
TEARY
THAT'S RIGHT.


IT'S ALL...
...YOUR FAULT.
NOOOOO, LET ME GO...
I'M SORRY...
DARLING.
I'M SORRY.
SORRY.

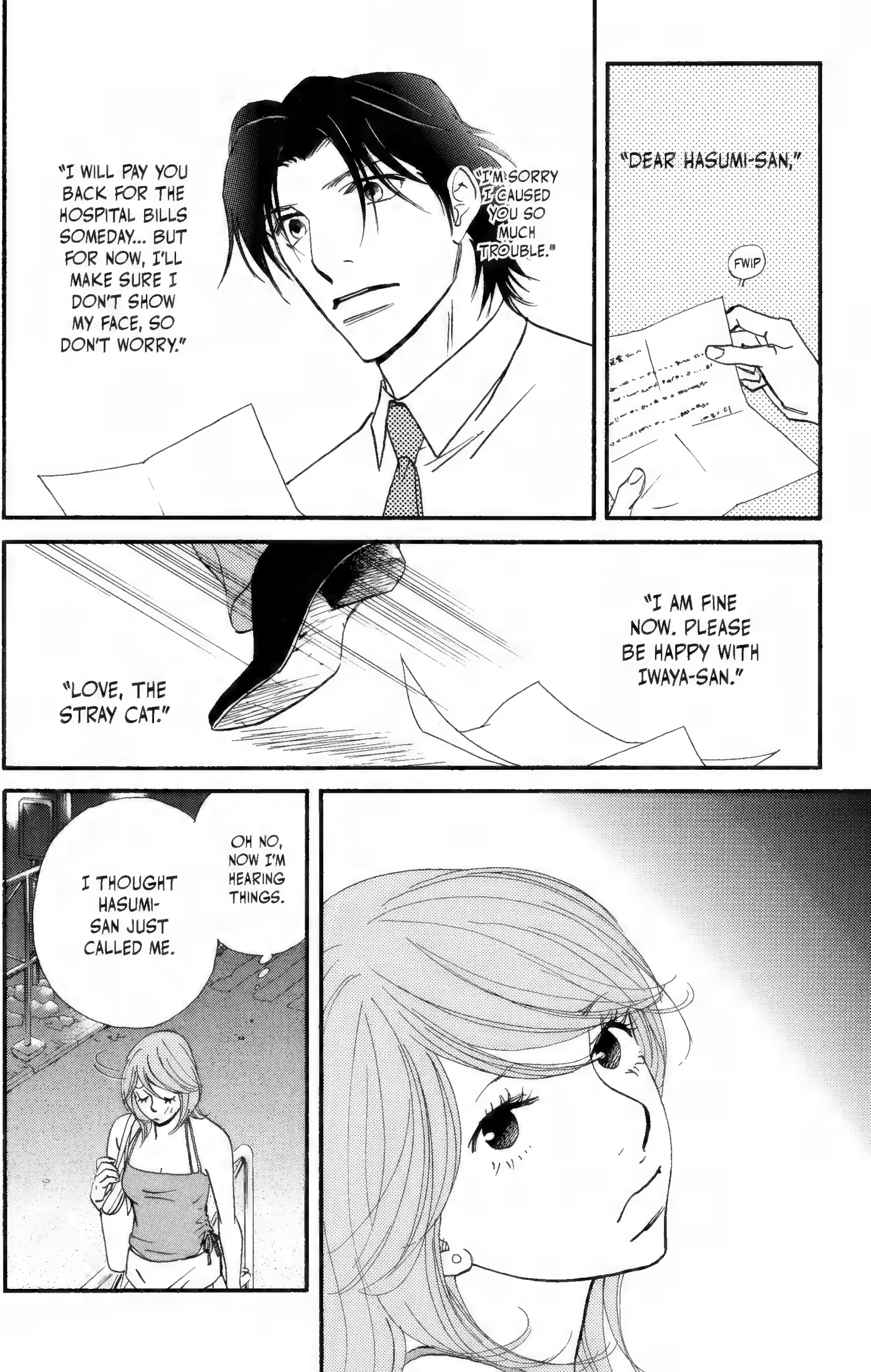
IT LOOKS LIKE I DRANK TOO MUCH...
IS IT OKAY IF I GO HOME?
P-PLEASE...
...OR RATHER, GET OUT.
STUPID.
STUPID.
STUPID.
STUPID.
STUPID.
招牌雲呑
Mountain Cream
雪山雪糕
生力

WHAT AM I DOING?
HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
NO...I'M VISITING SOMEONE IN THE HOSPITAL.

I LEFT HER ALL ALONE, BECAUSE I KNEW I'D LOSE CONTROL IF I SAW HER FACE.
SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL, SO SHE MUST BE ALL RIGHT... RIGHT...
SHE DISAPPEARED?
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN BROUGHT HERE FOR A DRUG ADDICTION TO SIMPLY DISAPPEAR, YOU KNOW.
SOMETIMES THEY'RE AFRAID THEY CAN'T PAY THE HOSPITAL BILLS, OR IN THE CASE OF FOREIGNERS, THEY'RE AFRAID OF BEING DEPORTED.
YOU, HER HUSBAND, DIDN'T VISIT HER FOR A WHILE, SO I THOUGHT YOU RAN AWAY TOGETHER...

HMPH...
HA...
HA HA.
MWA HA HA HA!
FINE THEN!
IT'LL BE EASIER IF EVERYTHING DISAPPEARS ANYWAY.
LIKE IT WAS ONLY A DREAM.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME TO WAKE UP FEELING FINE.

CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK
はっ
THE SOUND OF THOSE FOOT-STEPS...
A LETTER?


"DEAR HASUMI-SAN,"
FWIP
"I'M SORRY I CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE."
"I WILL PAY YOU BACK FOR THE HOSPITAL BILLS SOMEDAY... BUT FOR NOW, I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T SHOW MY FACE, SO DON'T WORRY."
"I AM FINE NOW. PLEASE BE HAPPY WITH IWAYA-SAN."
"LOVE, THE STRAY CAT."
I THOUGHT HASUMI-SAN JUST CALLED ME.
OH NO, NOW I'M HEARING THINGS.

FUKU-SHIMA!!
WHAT?
DARLING, WHY?!
HEY!!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!!
WH-WHO KNOWS?!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY!
STOP!!
BONK
SLAM
THUD

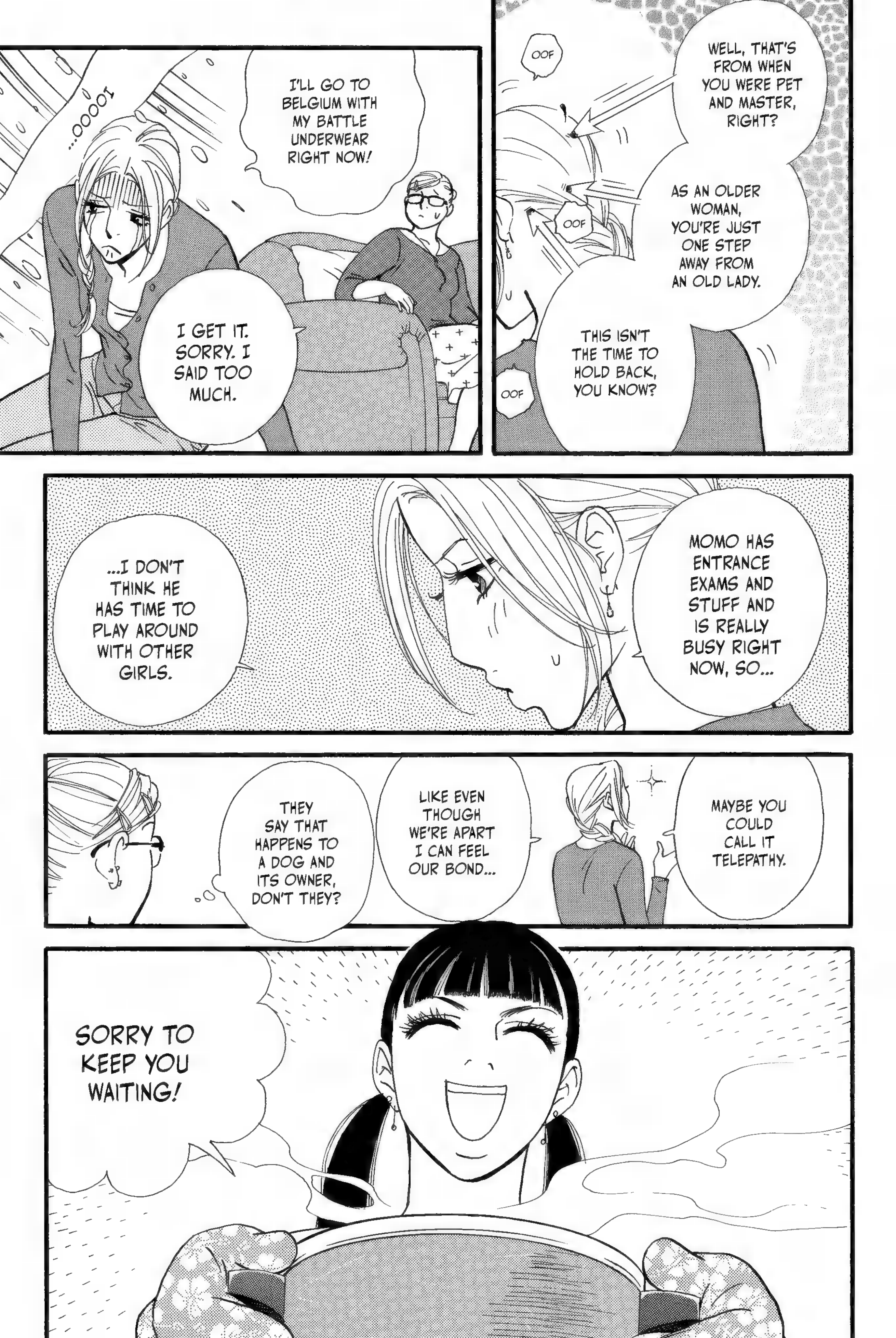
WHY DID YOU STOP ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
YOU TOLD ME TO!!!
...
...DARLING?
WHEN I'M WITH YOU...
...I'M ALWAYS YELLING.
BUT... THAT...
...MIGHT BE BECAUSE I CAN SAY ANYTHING TO YOU.
I THINK.
I BROKE UP...
...WITH HER.

WHEN I'M ALONE...
...I THINK, MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS LONG AGO...
...OR I WONDER WHY IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS. I REGRET THINGS...
...AND IT HURTS.
I'M LONELY...
... ENOUGH TO DIE...
SO LONELY...
SO LONELY...

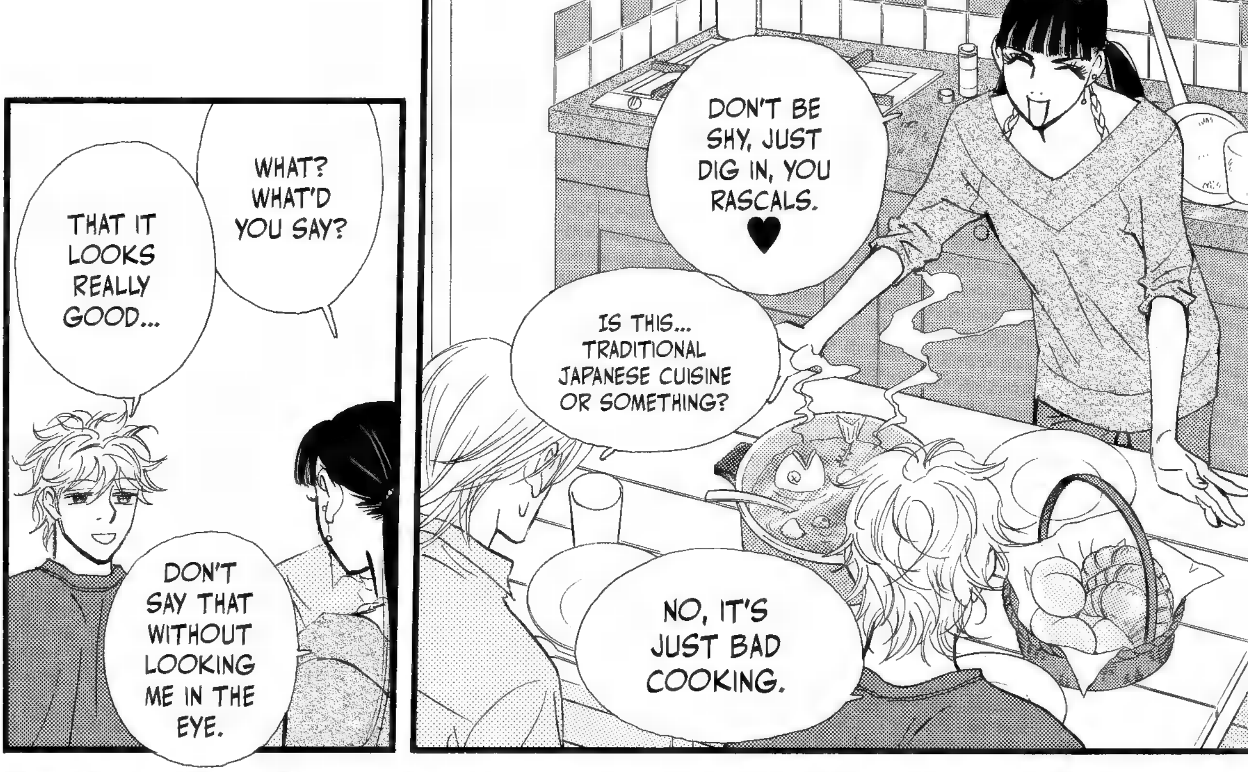
WHAT A STUPID LITTLE DARLING...
REALLY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.

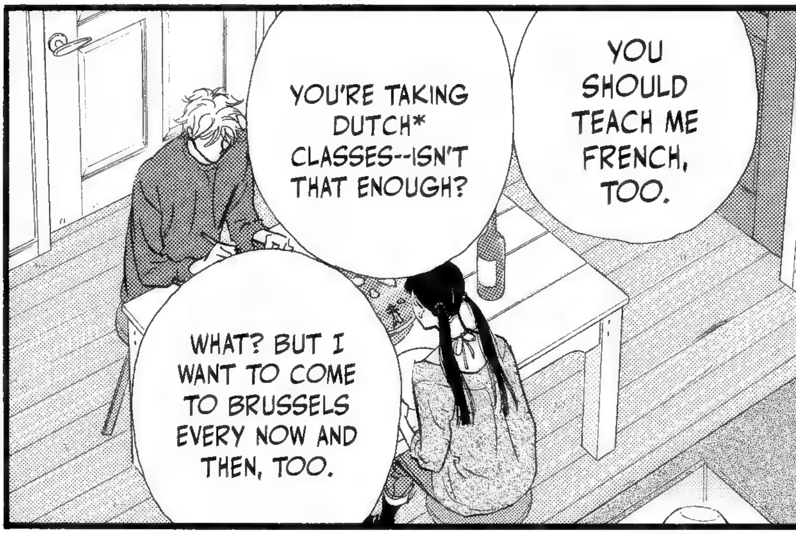
"DANCE MAGAZINE"?
SUB-SCRIBED?
OH... I'VE SUBSCRIBED TO THAT.
WHAT A STRANGE THING FOR YOU TO READ.
SEE? I'VE ORDERED ALL THE OTHER DANCE-RELATED PUBLICATIONS FROM AMAZON, TOO.
I SEE...
WELL... ANYWAY, CONGRA-TULATIONS ON BECOMING LOVERS.
SO HOW WAS IT?
VAST KNOWLEDGE
DID YOU KNOW THE COLLAGEN FIBERS IN FASCIA LIQUEFY WHEN THEY ARE WARM?
THAT'S WHY WARMING UP RAISES A DANCER'S ABILITIES.
VAST KNOWLEDGE
I HAVE A FEELING SHE'S TRYING HER HARDEST AT THE WRONG THING AGAIN.

HOW WAS WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO ASK?
YOU SEALED THE DEAL, DIDN'T YOU? AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE HE LEFT?
WELL... THAT IS...
IT'LL GET LONG IF I EXPLAIN, BUT... BASICALLY...
THAT'S FINE. YOUR EXPLANATIONS ARE USUALLY LONG.
BUT BASICALLY, YOU DIDN'T DO IT, DID YOU?
I DON'T KNOW. THIS TIME IT'S REALLY A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.
AND THERE ARE LOT OF BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRLS (AND BOYS) THERE, AREN'T THERE?
I... I-IT'S OKAY.
WE DON'T...
...HAVE A WEAK RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL BREAK SO EASILY.



...OOOOI
I'LL GO TO BELGIUM WITH MY BATTLE UNDERWEAR RIGHT NOW!
I GET IT. SORRY. I SAID TOO MUCH.
OOF
WELL, THAT'S FROM WHEN YOU WERE PET AND MASTER, RIGHT?
OOF
AS AN OLDER WOMAN, YOU'RE JUST ONE STEP AWAY FROM AN OLD LADY.
OOF
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO HOLD BACK, YOU KNOW?
...I DON'T THINK HE HAS TIME TO PLAY AROUND WITH OTHER GIRLS.
MOMO HAS ENTRANCE EXAMS AND STUFF AND IS REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO...
THEY SAY THAT HAPPENS TO A DOG AND ITS OWNER, DON'T THEY?
LIKE EVEN THOUGH WE'RE APART I CAN FEEL OUR BOND...
MAYBE YOU COULD CALL IT TELEPATHY.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!





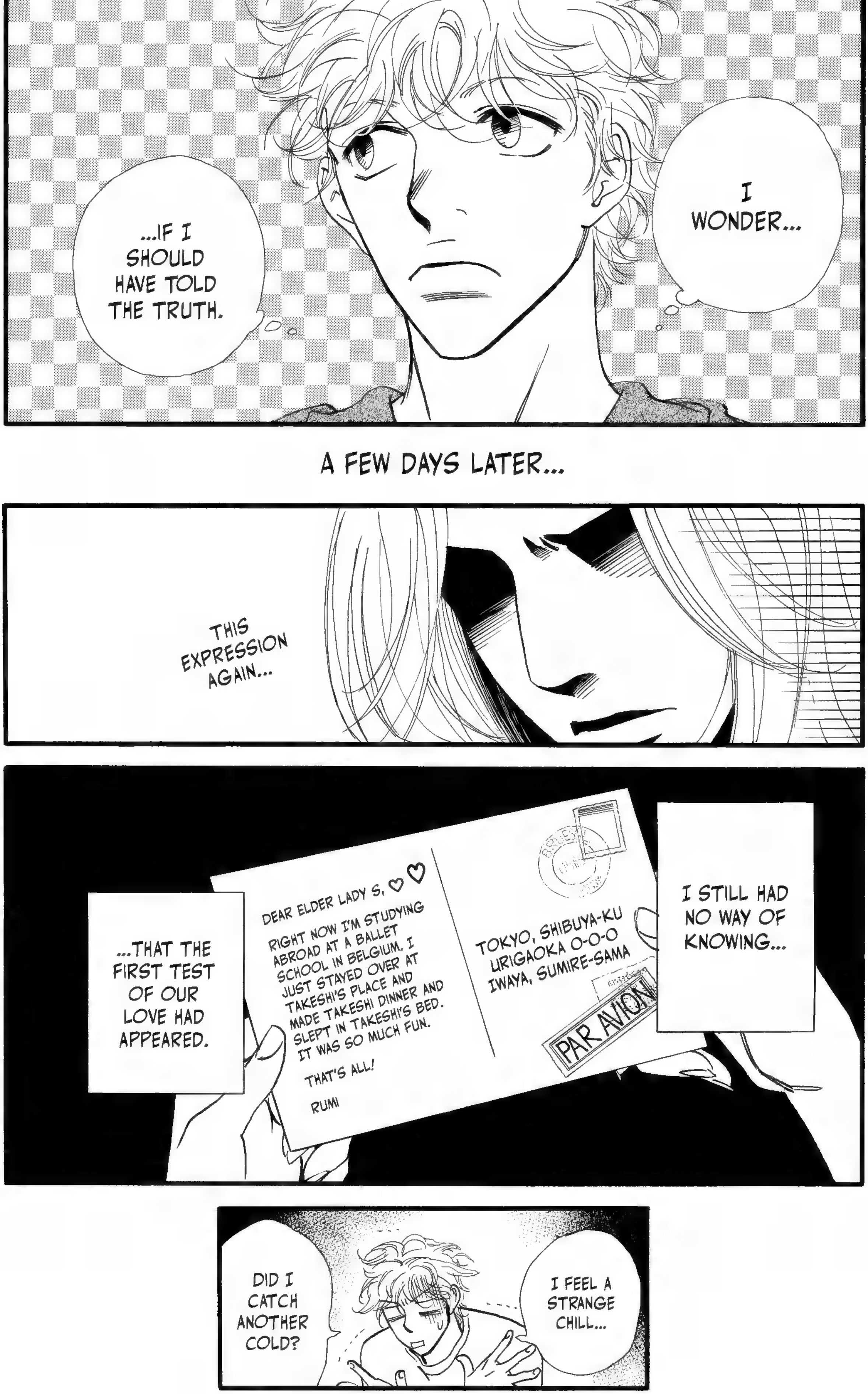
*LET'S EXPLAIN! IN BELGIUM, FRENCH, DUTCH (FLEMISH) AND GERMAN ARE ALL USED PUBLICLY. IN BRUSSELS, WHERE MOMO IS, FRENCH IS THE MOST COMMON AND IN ANTWERP, WHERE RUMI IS, IT'S DUTCH.

THEO IS LEFT-HANDED.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
AND YOU'RE EATING THE FOOD I COOKED...
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR BODY TO SLEEP ON SUCH A HARD FLOOR.
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP WITH THEO IN HIS ROOM?
WHAT'S THAT WEIRD LIGHT SHINING FROM HER EYES?
OH!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
?
IMAGINATION
BOYS LOVE MANIAC
...THEO... JE T'AIME!
MOI AUSSI, TAKESHI...

UMM, I WONDER HOW YOU SAY "ATTACK"...
CAN'T YOU STUDY LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?!
HELLO...
HA HA. I THOUGHT YOU'D CALL SOON.
YEAH, IT'S LUNCHTIME NOW.
YOU DOING WELL?
I'M WELL... JUST A LITTLE LONELY...
OH, WAIT! THERE WAS A TYPHOON ON THE WEEKEND AND...
THE TONE OF HER VOICE IS SLIGHTLY. ..
...MORE SEXY, ISN'T IT?
ACHOO!
ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU HAVE A COLD?

NO...WHEN I SLEPT IN THE KITCHEN THIS WEEKEND, IT GOT COLD IN THE MORNING.
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
WHAT?
WHY THE KITCHEN?
UM, YOU KNOW...
I LENT MY BED TO THEO'S FRIEND.
YEAH, YEAH... YEP, I'M FINE...
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN, OKAY?
DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?
YEAH.
GOOD NIGHT.
KISS
CLICK


I WONDER...
...IF I SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH.
A FEW DAYS LATER...
THIS EXPRESSION AGAIN...
I STILL HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING...
DEAR ELDER LADY S.
RIGHT NOW I'M STUDYING ABROAD AT A BALLET SCHOOL IN BELGIUM. I JUST STAYED OVER AT TAKESHI'S PLACE AND MADE TAKESHI DINNER AND SLEPT IN TAKESHI'S BED. IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
THAT'S ALL!
RUMI
TOKYO, SHIBUYA-KU URIGAOKA O-O-O IWAYA, SUMIRE-SAMA
PAR AVION
...THAT THE FIRST TEST OF OUR LOVE HAD APPEARED.
I FEEL A STRANGE CHILL...
DID I CATCH ANOTHER COLD?

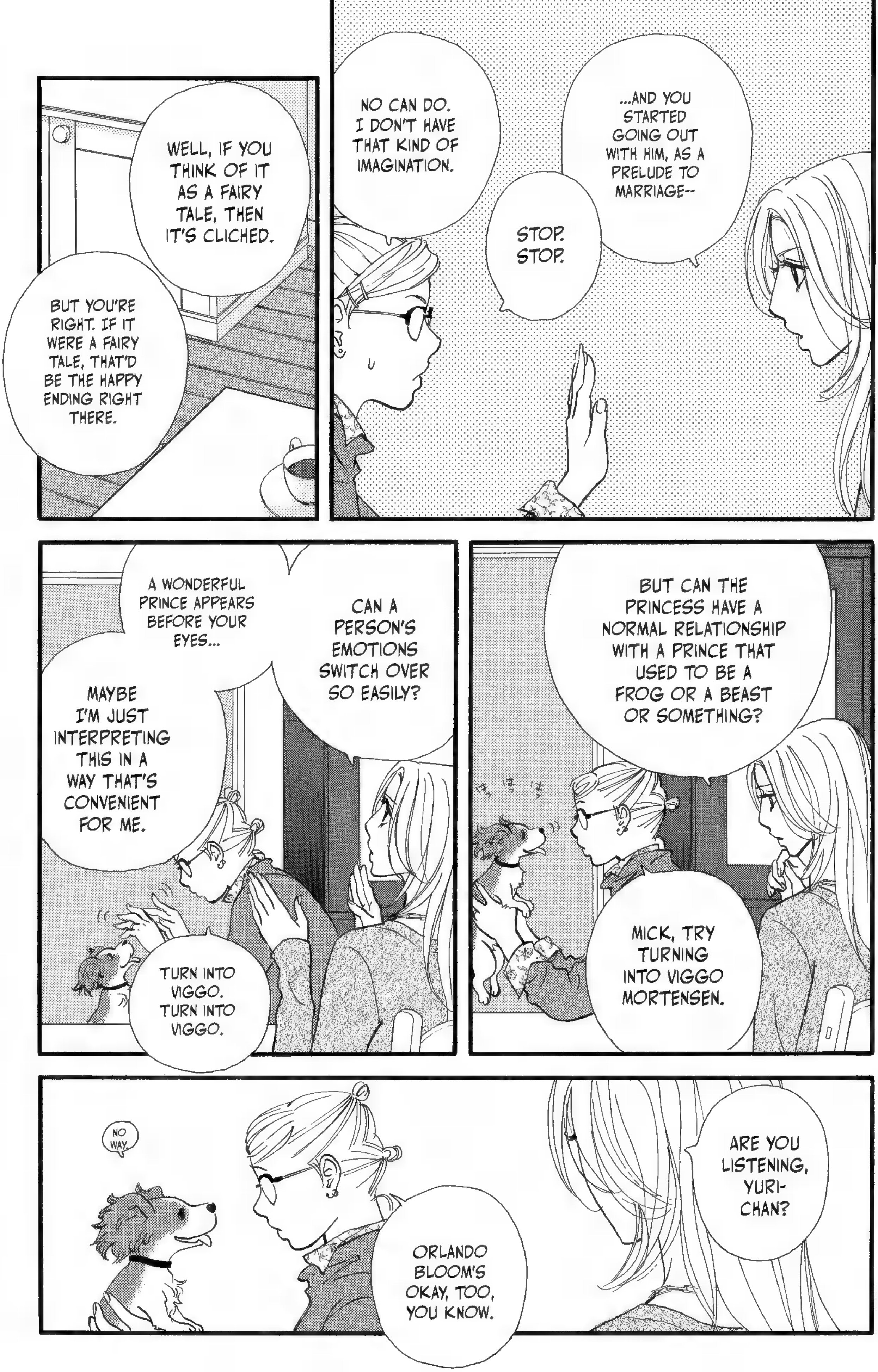
HEY!!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!!
WH-WHO KNOWS?!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY!

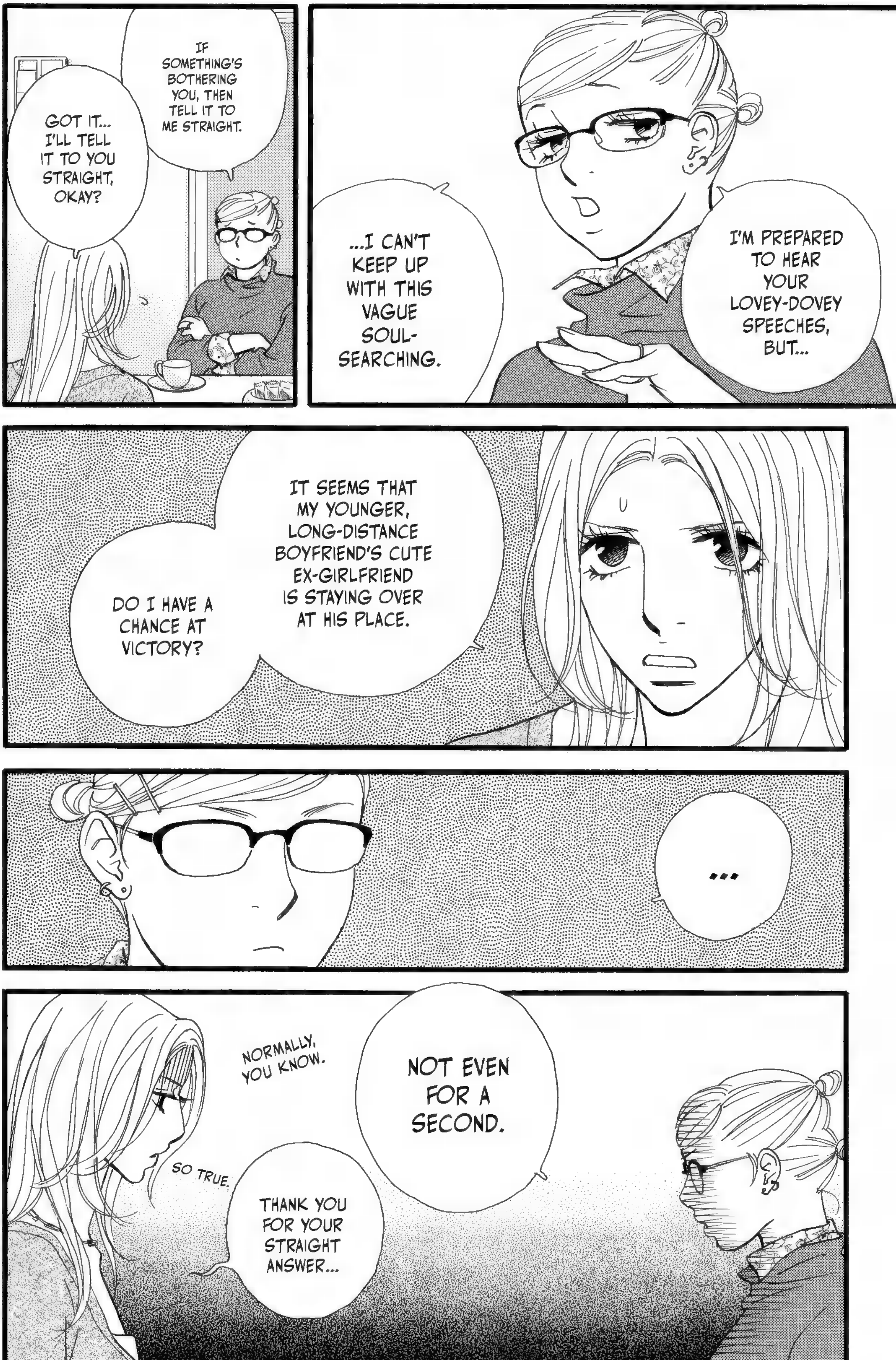
RULE 73: THE HEART OF LOVE

HA...
HA HA.
MWA HA HA HA!

MIO...THIS IS A GIFT FOR YOU.
OH! SUPER!
I ADORE KUMANGO!
MMMM...
SLURP
HELLO AND GOODBYE KISSES ARE MANDATORY, HUH?
I WISH YOU'D HURRY UP AND COME HERE, SUMIRE-CHAN...
AND THEN WE'D HOLD HANDS AND WALK IN FRONT OF THE ROYAL PALACE AND...
...SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE STREET.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL WANT TO SEE THE MANNEKEN PIS.

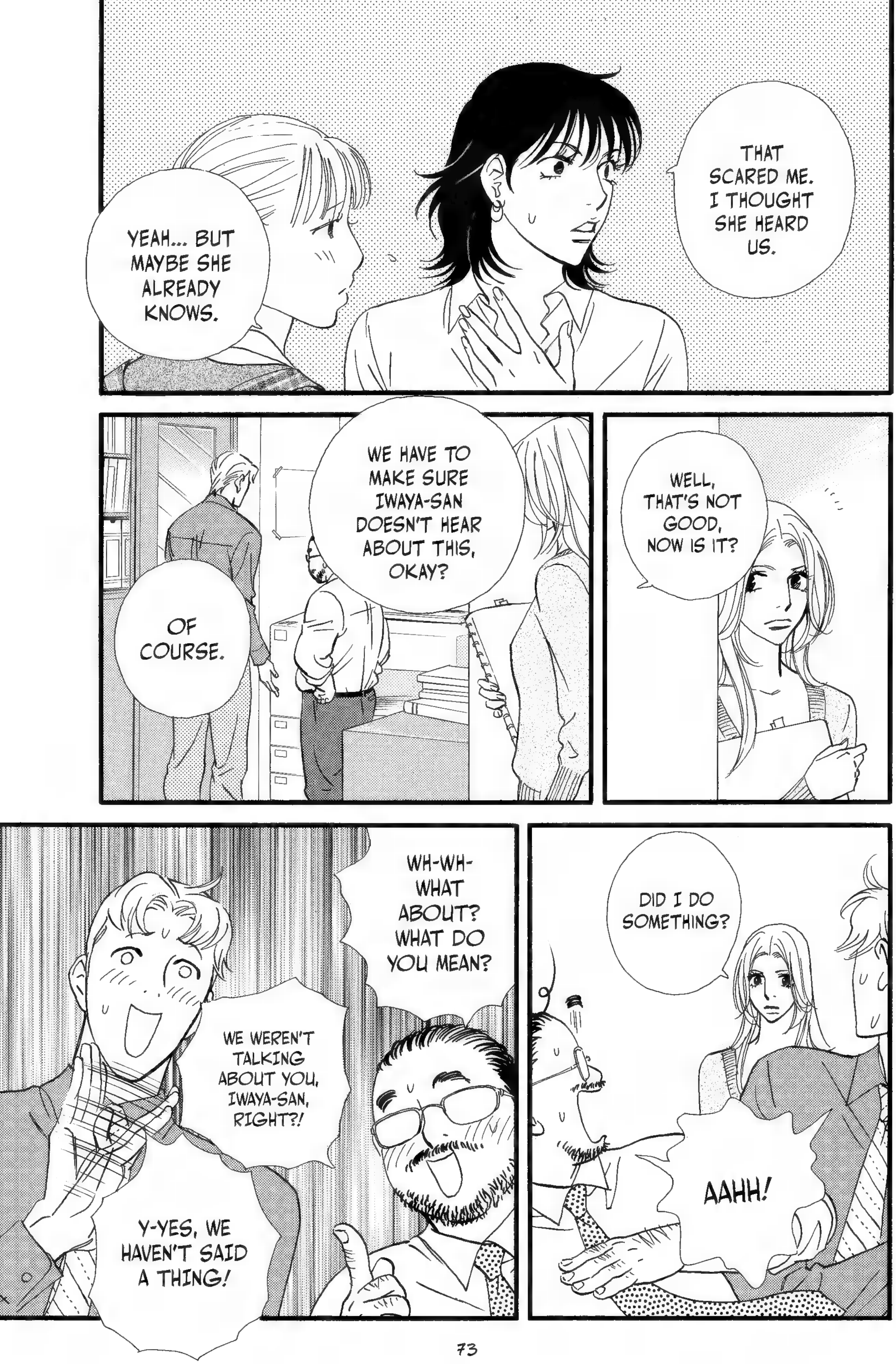
...OKAY?
IN SHORT, IMAGINE THIS.
YOU HAD A PET DOG.
HMM?
ぽんっ
YOU REALLY LOVED THAT DOG...
...SO THAT SOMETIMES, WALKING THE DOG WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN GOING OUT WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND.
YURI!
BOYFRIEND
I SEE, I SEE.
THEN ONE DAY, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THAT DOG TURNED INTO A HUMAN PRINCE...
POOF!
EEK!
...


...AND YOU STARTED GOING OUT WITH HIM, AS A PRELUDE TO MARRIAGE--
STOP. STOP.
NO CAN DO. I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF IMAGINATION.
WELL, IF YOU THINK OF IT AS A FAIRY TALE, THEN IT'S CLICHED.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IF IT WERE A FAIRY TALE, THAT'D BE THE HAPPY ENDING RIGHT THERE.
BUT CAN THE PRINCESS HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A PRINCE THAT USED TO BE A FROG OR A BEAST OR SOMETHING?
MICK, TRY TURNING INTO VIGGO MORTENSEN.
A WONDERFUL PRINCE APPEARS BEFORE YOUR EYES...
CAN A PERSON'S EMOTIONS SWITCH OVER SO EASILY?
MAYBE I'M JUST INTERPRETING THIS IN A WAY THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR ME.
TURN INTO VIGGO. TURN INTO VIGGO.
ARE YOU LISTENING, YURI-CHAN?
ORLANDO BLOOM'S OKAY, TOO, YOU KNOW.
NO WAY.

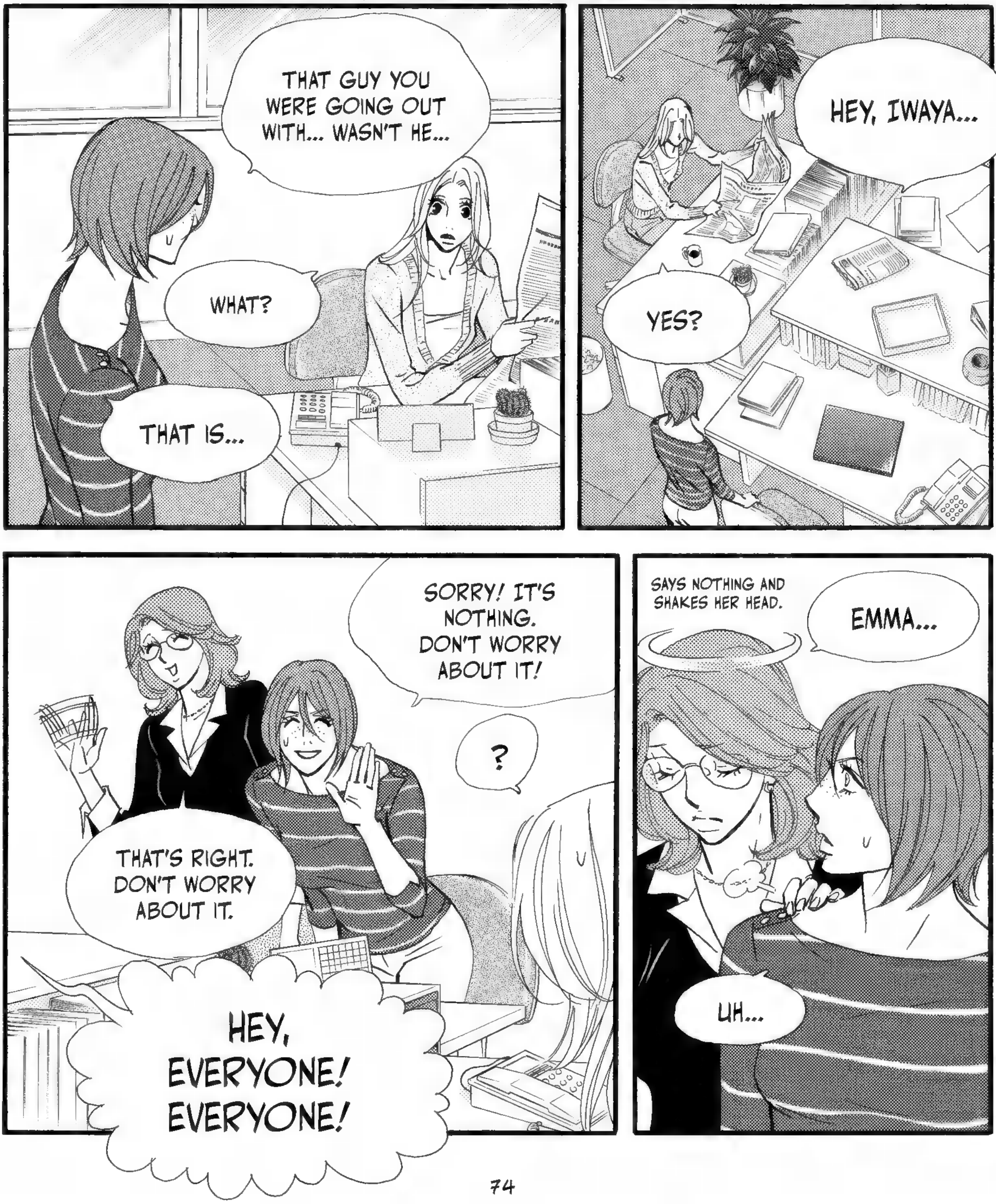

IF SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU, THEN TELL IT TO ME STRAIGHT.
GOT IT... I'LL TELL IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, OKAY?
I'M PREPARED TO HEAR YOUR LOVEY-DOVEY SPEECHES, BUT...
...I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS VAGUE SOUL-SEARCHING.
IT SEEMS THAT MY YOUNGER, LONG-DISTANCE BOYFRIEND'S CUTE EX-GIRLFRIEND IS STAYING OVER AT HIS PLACE.
DO I HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY?
...
NOT EVEN FOR A SECOND.
NORMALLY, YOU KNOW.
SO TRUE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRAIGHT ANSWER...

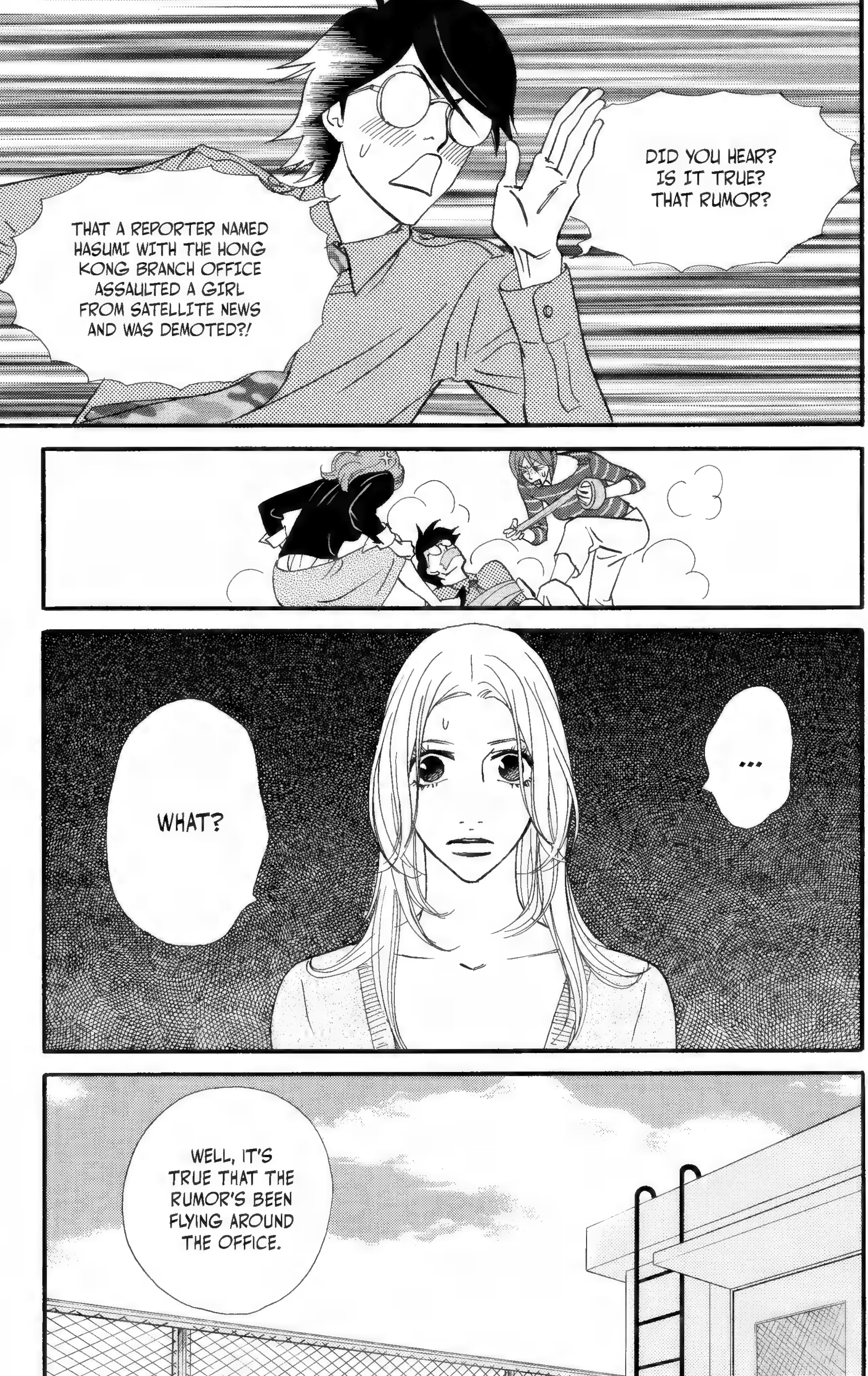
WELL, SHE'S RIGHT...
I'M BIGGER, OLDER, HIS EX-MASTER...
...AND THERE'S AN EIGHT-HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. I'M AT A TOTAL DISADVANTAGE.
AND WE HAVEN'T HAD SEX, EITHER...
OR, LIKE, MAYBE YOU CAN'T EVEN CALL THAT A GIRLFRIEND!
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A LOVER IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH HIM AND CUDDLE, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW I... YOU KNOW TAKESHI AND I DID--

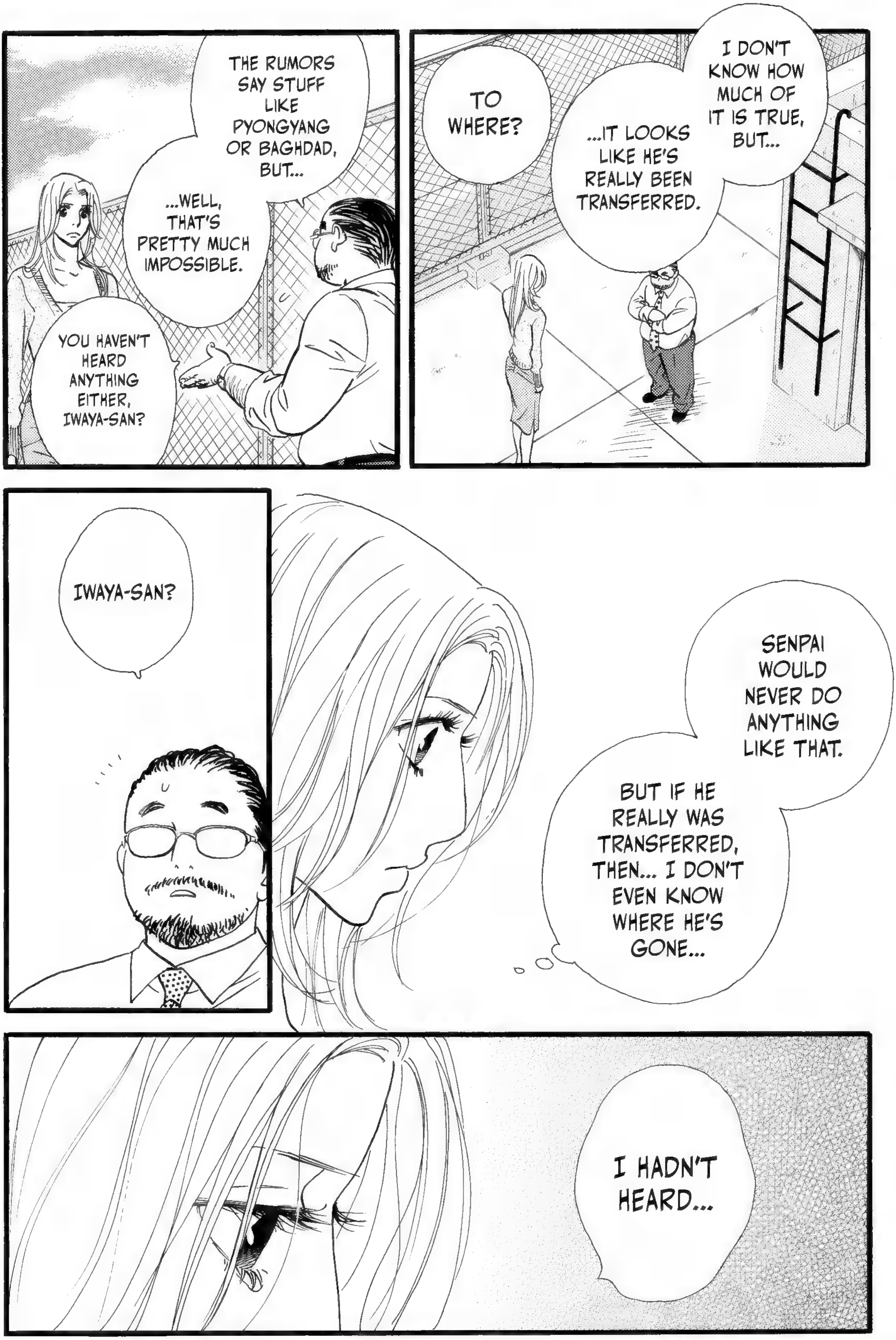
SHUT UP!
節水
給湯室
I-I'M SORRY!
WHAT?!
OH! NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THERE WAS A...A FLY JUST NOW...
A SMALL FLY WAS FLYING... IT WAS IRRITATING AND I...
...JUST...
I SEE...
火の用心
I AM SORRY I CONFUSED YOU.
BYE.
給湯室


THAT SCARED ME. I THOUGHT SHE HEARD US.
YEAH... BUT MAYBE SHE ALREADY KNOWS.
WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE IWAYA-SAN DOESN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS, OKAY?
OF COURSE.
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD, NOW IS IT?
WH-WH-WHAT ABOUT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU, IWAYA-SAN, RIGHT?!
Y-YES, WE HAVEN'T SAID A THING!
DID I DO SOMETHING?
AAHH!

*HE MEANS ANIME SERIES AIMED AT CHILDREN, LIKE "CARDCAPTOR SAKURA," WHERE THE GIRL CHARACTERS TRANSFORM INTO SOMETHING.




DID YOU HEAR? IS IT TRUE? THAT RUMOR?
THAT A REPORTER NAMED HASUMI WITH THE HONG KONG BRANCH OFFICE ASSAULTED A GIRL FROM SATELLITE NEWS AND WAS DEMOTED?!
...
WHAT?
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THE RUMOR'S BEEN FLYING AROUND THE OFFICE.


I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF IT IS TRUE, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY BEEN TRANSFERRED.
TO WHERE?
THE RUMORS SAY STUFF LIKE PYONGYANG OR BAGHDAD, BUT...
...WELL, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING EITHER, IWAYA-SAN?
SENPAI WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT IF HE REALLY WAS TRANSFERRED, THEN... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE...
IWAYA-SAN?
I HADN'T HEARD...

I REALLY HAVE...
...BECOME JUST A GIRL FROM HIS PAST.
...ANYTHING.
WOW...
...I'VE CRIED THROUGH DINNERTIME.
I'M GOING TO EAT SOMETHING.

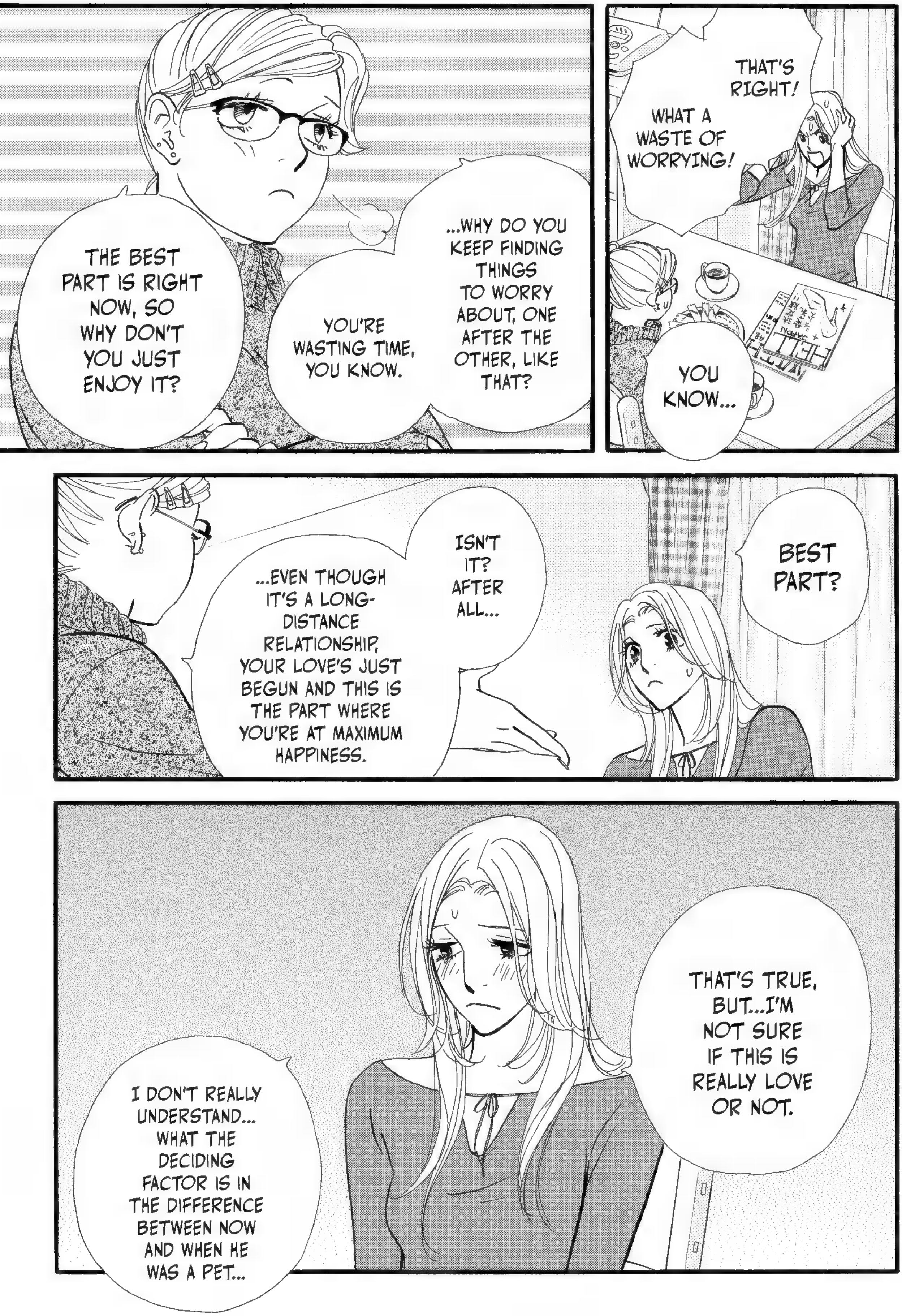
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
HASUMI-SENPAI...
...STILL HAS ENOUGH POWER TO MAKE ME CRY.
HELL--
YOU DOING GOOD, MY SUGAR PIE?
TODAY I'M GOING TO EXPRESS MY BURNING EMOTIONS WITH SONG!
FIRST SONG! "LOVE IS A CARAMEL MACCHIATO"!
LISTEN TO MY SONG!

* BELGIUM IS FAMOUS FOR ITS CHOCOLATES.

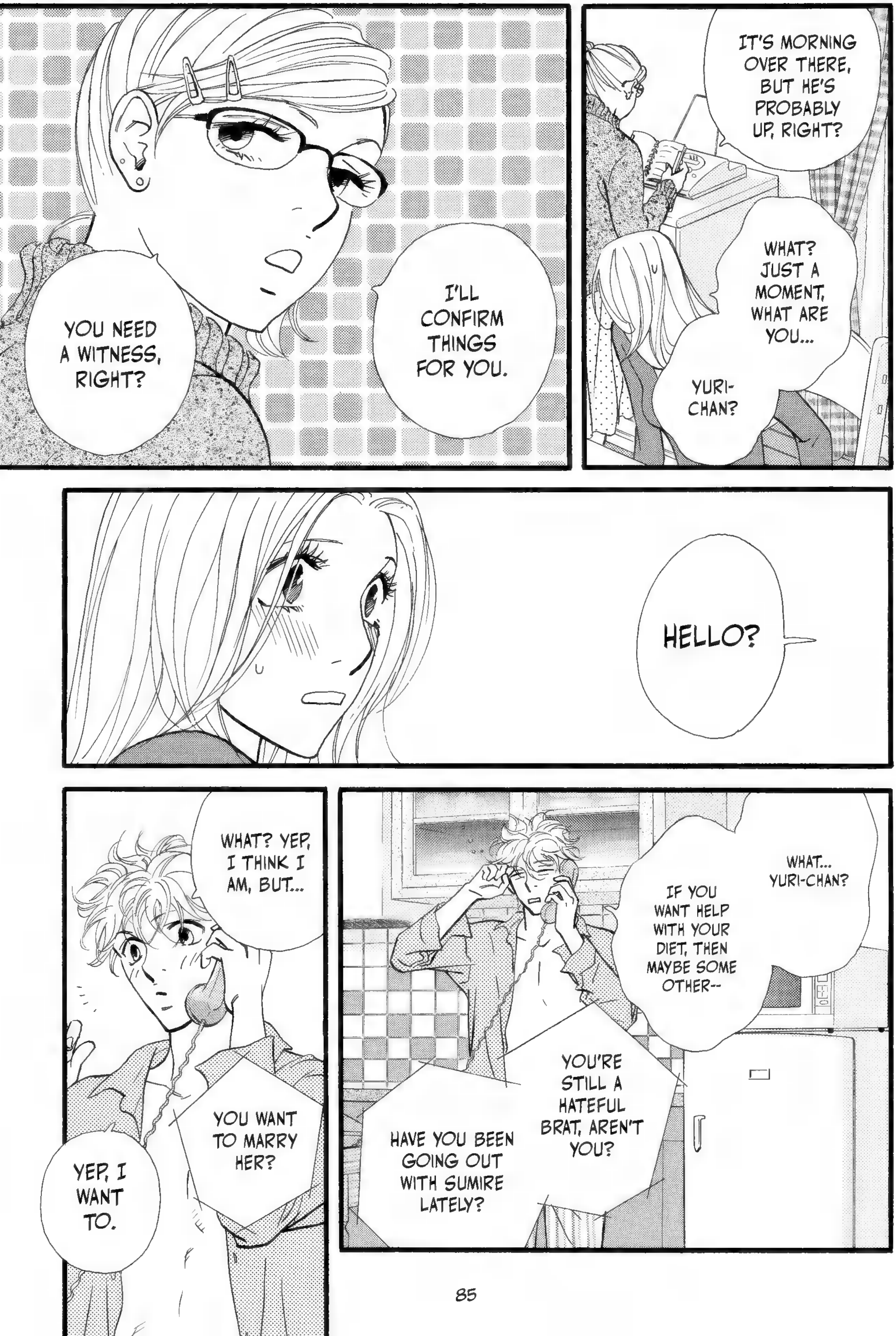
IT WAS SO HARD WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT SENPAI AND FUKUSHIMA-SAN...
IT'S NOT LIKE MY WORRIES ARE GONE, BUT...
...ISN'T IT WEIRD THAT JUST HEARING HIS VOICE CALMS ME DOWN?
AM I...REALLY IN LOVE?
WHAT? THEN YOU BROKE UP WITH HASUMI-SAN?
YES... YES...
RIGHT NOW... I AM DATING SOMEONE ELSE AND...
WHAT? WHAT'S HE LIKE? WHAT'S HE LIKE?

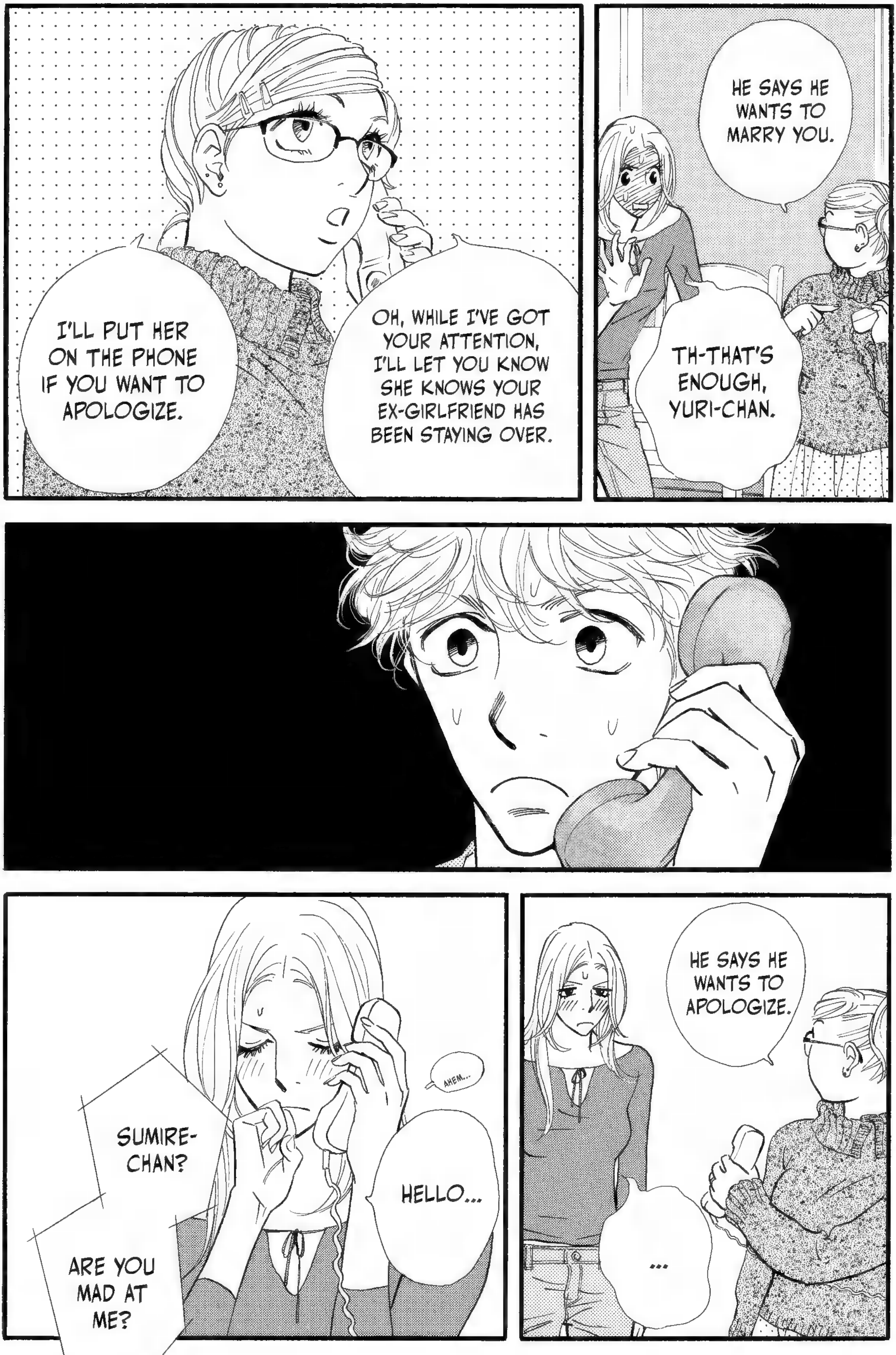
MAYBE IF I START WITH MY OUTSIDE...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THINGS ON THE INSIDE.
UMM...
HE IS STUDYING DANCE ABROAD AND...HE IS ALMOST 22, BUT--
A YOUNGER MAN?! THAT'S GREAT!
WHAT?
SHE SAYS HE'S A HOT YOUNGER MAN.
WHAT?! H-HOT, BUT THAT'S...
HE ISN'T VERY TALL... OR I SHOULD SAY HE'S A LOT SHORTER THAN ME.
OH, I GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, HUH.
UNCONSCIOUSLY MODEST.
HEY, EVEN WHEN NICOLE KIDMAN GOT DIVORCED...
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS SAYING...
YEAH, "NOW I CAN FINALLY WEAR HIGH HEELS," WASN'T IT?

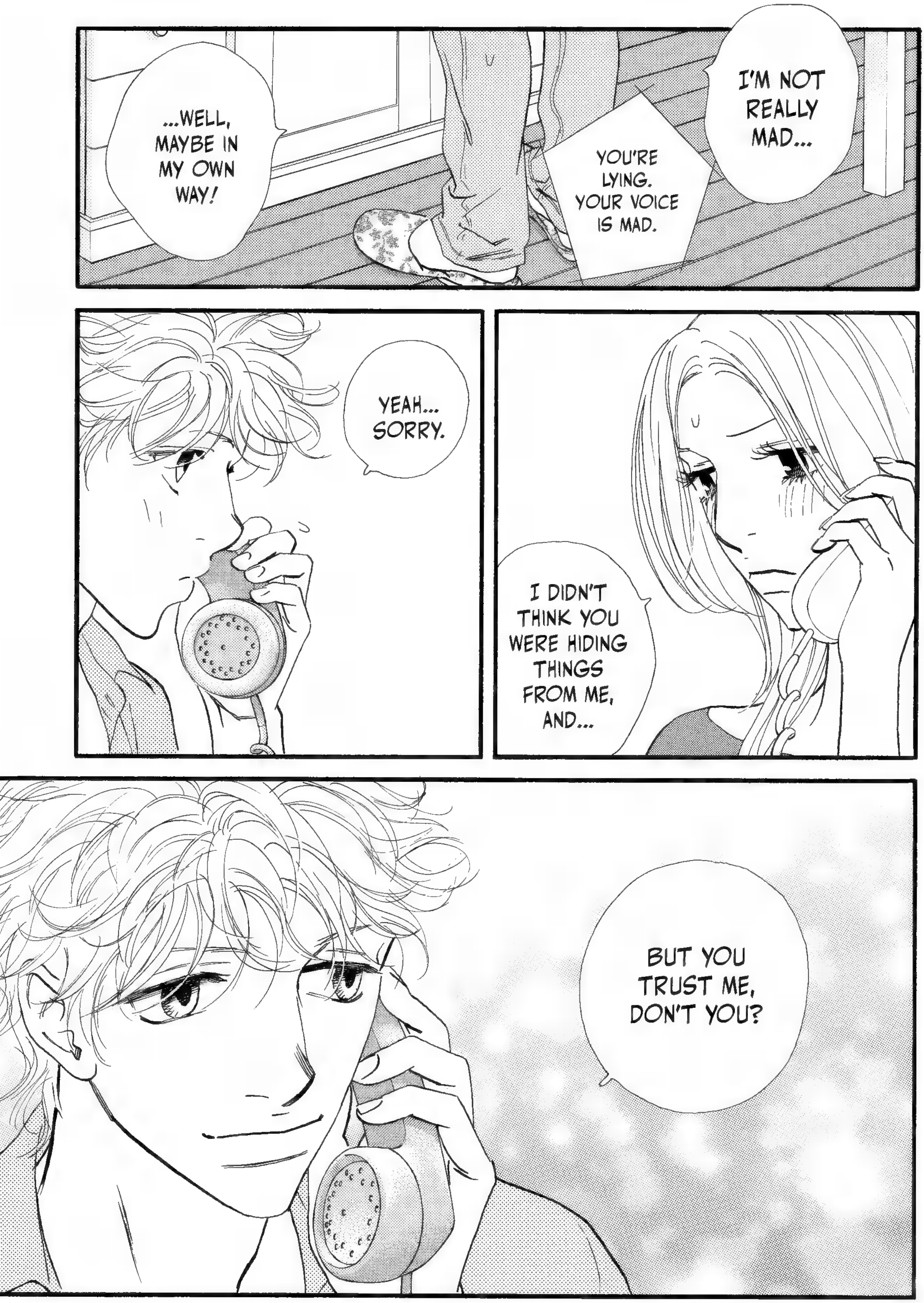
CAN'T WEAR HIGH HEELS?!
I SEE... I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY SHOES WHEN I WAS WALKING WITH SENPAI, BUT...
I DON'T HAVE MANY FLATS, AND I'LL HAVE TO GET CLOTHES THAT MATCH OR...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I HAVE TO ASK YURI-CHAN TO HELP ME WITH MY COORDINATES...
もん もん もん もん
BUT, EVEN IF YOU'RE BAREFOOT, YOU'RE TALLER, AREN'T YOU?
HELL
JAPON


THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT A WASTE OF WORRYING!
YOU KNOW...
...WHY DO YOU KEEP FINDING THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE WASTING TIME, YOU KNOW.
THE BEST PART IS RIGHT NOW, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST ENJOY IT?
BEST PART?
ISN'T IT? AFTER ALL...
...EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, YOUR LOVE'S JUST BEGUN AND THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU'RE AT MAXIMUM HAPPINESS.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS REALLY LOVE OR NOT.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND... WHAT THE DECIDING FACTOR IS IN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN HE WAS A PET...

MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST IN MY HEAD.
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, YURI-CHAN? THAT I'M REALLY PRONE TO DELUSIONS.
ACTUALLY, I THINK A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE KNOW.
IT'S NOT JUST ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE ELSE HEARD HIM SAY HE LOVES ME... I DON'T HAVE A WITNESS.
NERVOUS
そわ
NERVOUS
そわ
MAYBE I'M MAKING IT ALL UP TO ESCAPE REALITY BECAUSE BREAKING UP WITH HASUMI-SENPAI WAS SO HARD ON ME.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? MAYBE IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR ME TO BE COMMITTED.
I BETTER MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL.
AND THE PHONE NUMBER IS?
WHAT? FOR ST. LUKE'S?
NO. FOR THE KID IN BRUSSELS.
IS IT THIS ONE IN YOUR PLANNER?


IT'S MORNING OVER THERE, BUT HE'S PROBABLY UP, RIGHT?
WHAT? JUST A MOMENT, WHAT ARE YOU...
YURI-CHAN?
YOU NEED A WITNESS, RIGHT?
I'LL CONFIRM THINGS FOR YOU.
HELLO?
WHAT... YURI-CHAN?
IF YOU WANT HELP WITH YOUR DIET, THEN MAYBE SOME OTHER--
YOU'RE STILL A HATEFUL BRAT, AREN'T YOU?
HAVE YOU BEEN GOING OUT WITH SUMIRE LATELY?
WHAT? YEP, I THINK I AM, BUT...
YOU WANT TO MARRY HER?
YEP, I WANT TO.


HE SAYS HE WANTS TO MARRY YOU.
TH-THAT'S ENOUGH, YURI-CHAN.
OH, WHILE I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, I'LL LET YOU KNOW SHE KNOWS YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND HAS BEEN STAYING OVER.
I'LL PUT HER ON THE PHONE IF YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE.
HE SAYS HE WANTS TO APOLOGIZE.
...
HELLO...
AHEM...
SUMIRE-CHAN?
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?

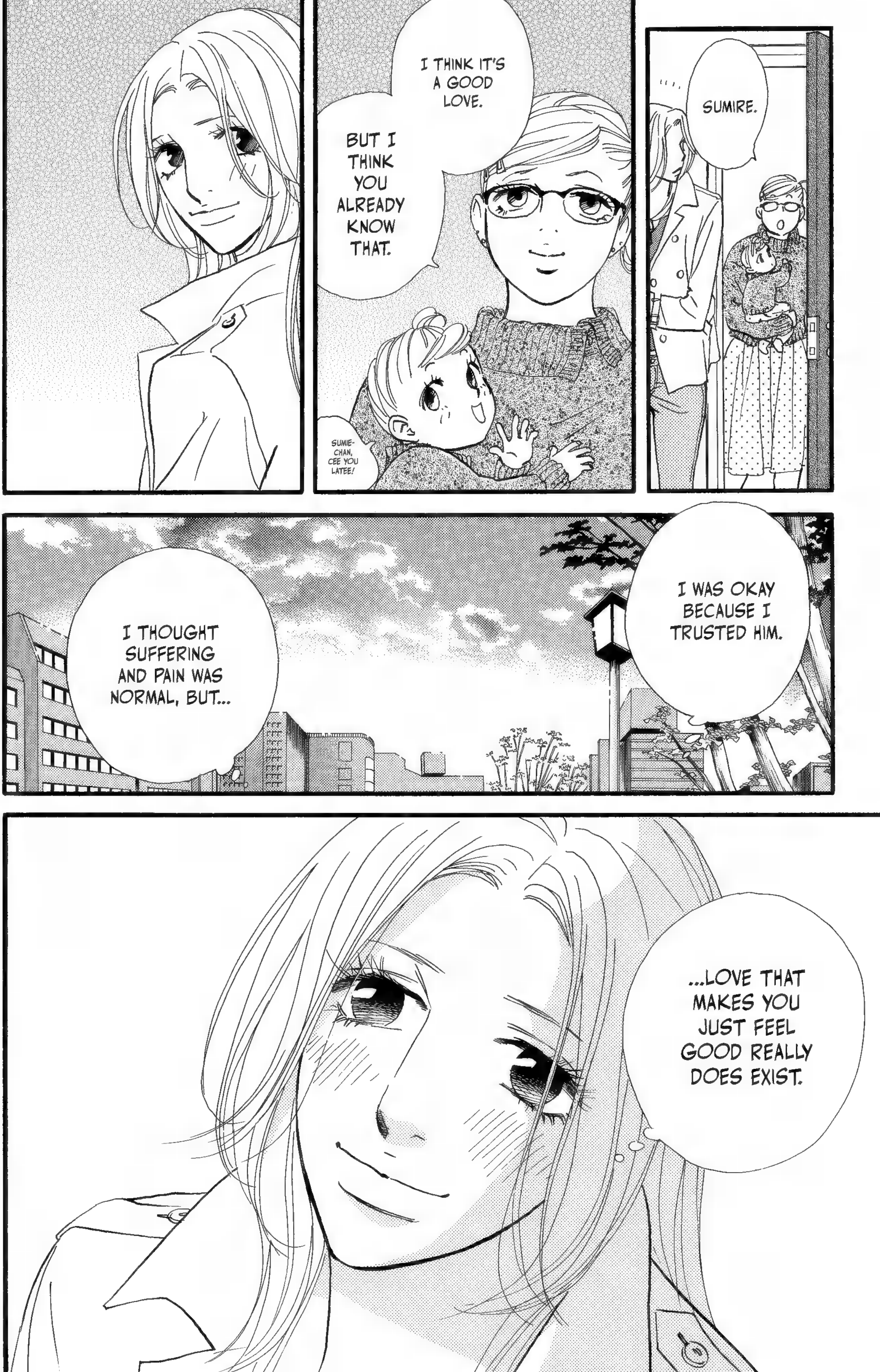

I'M NOT REALLY MAD...
YOU'RE LYING. YOUR VOICE IS MAD.
...WELL, MAYBE IN MY OWN WAY!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE HIDING THINGS FROM ME, AND...
YEAH... SORRY.
BUT YOU TRUST ME, DON'T YOU?

...
SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHAT IS IT?
I WANT A KISS.
HUUH?!
I WANT ONE RIGHT NOW OR ELSE I'LL DIIIE.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
OH!
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
IMAGINE I'M RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.

HMM?
OKAY?
WAIT A MOMENT.
RIGHT NOW I'M STROKING YOUR HAIR WITH MY RIGHT HAND, SUMIRE-CHAN.
MY LEFT HAND IS... WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
WHAT? MY BLUE CASHMERE BOATNECK.
THEN, MY LEFT HAND IS ON YOUR BACK WHERE IT'S SHOWING A LITTLE.
HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
HMM... WARM.
IT FEELS WARM WHERE YOU'RE TOUCHING ME, TOO, SUMIRE-CHAN.
YOU SMELL NICE...
YOU'RE LYING.
SHH.
I'M GOING TO KISS YOU, SO BE QUIET.

TIME OUT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE RED FROM YOUR NECK TO YOUR EARS...
FINE. FINE. HA HA HA HA!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO TALK FOR? IF YOU HAVE SOME COMPLICATED STUFF TO TALK ABOUT THEN DO IT ON YOUR OWN DIME.
OH! UM, SORRY!!
HELLO? I'LL CALL YOU LATER, SEE YA!

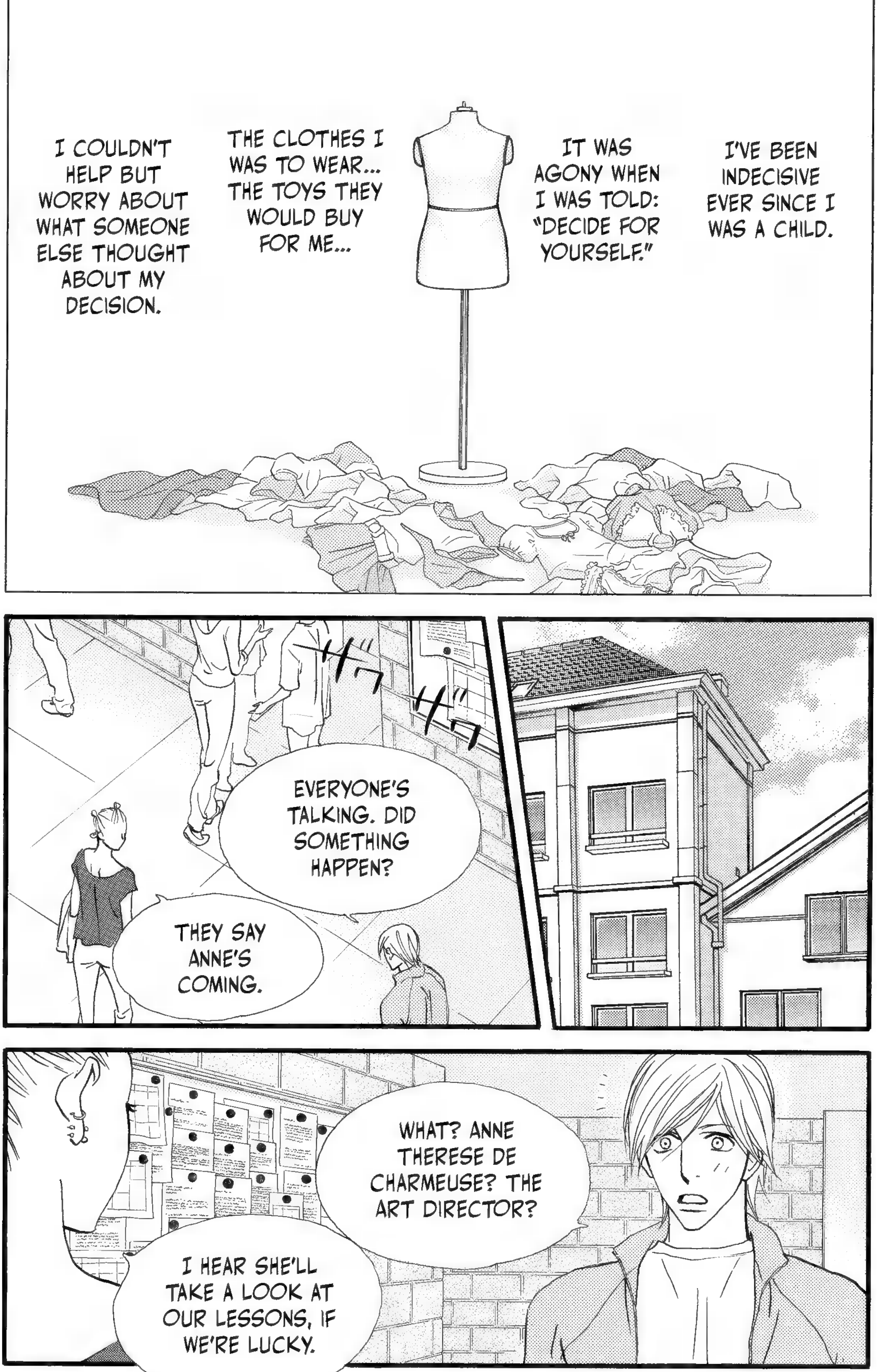
WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
TAKESHI?
PHEW.
CLICK
H O O O O O O!
???
IT MAKES HER SEEM LIKE A REAL GIRLFRIEND!
SHE WAS JEALOUS! SHE WAS JEALOUS, YOU KNOW!
SUMIRE'S THE BEST! I'M THE BEST! THEO'S THE BEST!
QUOI...?
QU'EST-CE QU'IL Y A...?*
*WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
THANK YOU, YURI-CHAN.
YOU'RE WELCOME.


...
SUMIRE.
I THINK IT'S A GOOD LOVE.
BUT I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT.
SUMIE-CHAN, CEE YOU LATEE!
I WAS OKAY BECAUSE I TRUSTED HIM.
I THOUGHT SUFFERING AND PAIN WAS NORMAL, BUT...
...LOVE THAT MAKES YOU JUST FEEL GOOD REALLY DOES EXIST.

SINCE THEN, SUMIRE-CHAN AND I...
...TODAY WE'LL WALK FROM THE GRAND PLACE TO LA MONNAIE.
...ARE HOOKED ON "VIRTUAL DATES."
IT JUST MEANS THAT EVEN DELUSIONAL TENDENCIES CAN BE USEFUL.
LET'S GO TO THE PARK VIA THE METRO AND HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT.
ROGER.
SO WE HAVE TO BUY LUNCH FIRST.
LET'S HOLD HANDS WHEN WE WALK, OKAY?
BELGIUM GUIDE MAP
WHAT? BUT WE'RE IN PUBLIC...
OH, THERE'S A GOOD SMELL WAFTING FROM THE CHOCOLATIER.
CHOCOLATIER?
THAT MEANS "CHOCOLATE STORE."
LET'S BUY SOME AND EAT IT WHILE WE GO.

BOTANIQUE
KRUIDTUIN
SOON, I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE HER REAL HAND AND...
GARE CENTRALE
RAILWAY STATION
...WALK AROUND CUDDLING MORE THAN ANY COUPLE IN THIS CITY.
TRONE
TROON
WHAT?! YOU'RE GOING OUT?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I'M SORRY, TAKESHI. PLEASE FORGET ABOUT ME.

RULE 74:
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU


I'VE BEEN INDECISIVE EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
IT WAS AGONY WHEN I WAS TOLD: "DECIDE FOR YOURSELF."
THE CLOTHES I WAS TO WEAR... THE TOYS THEY WOULD BUY FOR ME...
I COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE THOUGHT ABOUT MY DECISION.
ザワ ザワ
EVERYONE'S TALKING. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THEY SAY ANNE'S COMING.
WHAT? ANNE THERESE DE CHARMEUSE? THE ART DIRECTOR?
I HEAR SHE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LESSONS, IF WE'RE LUCKY.

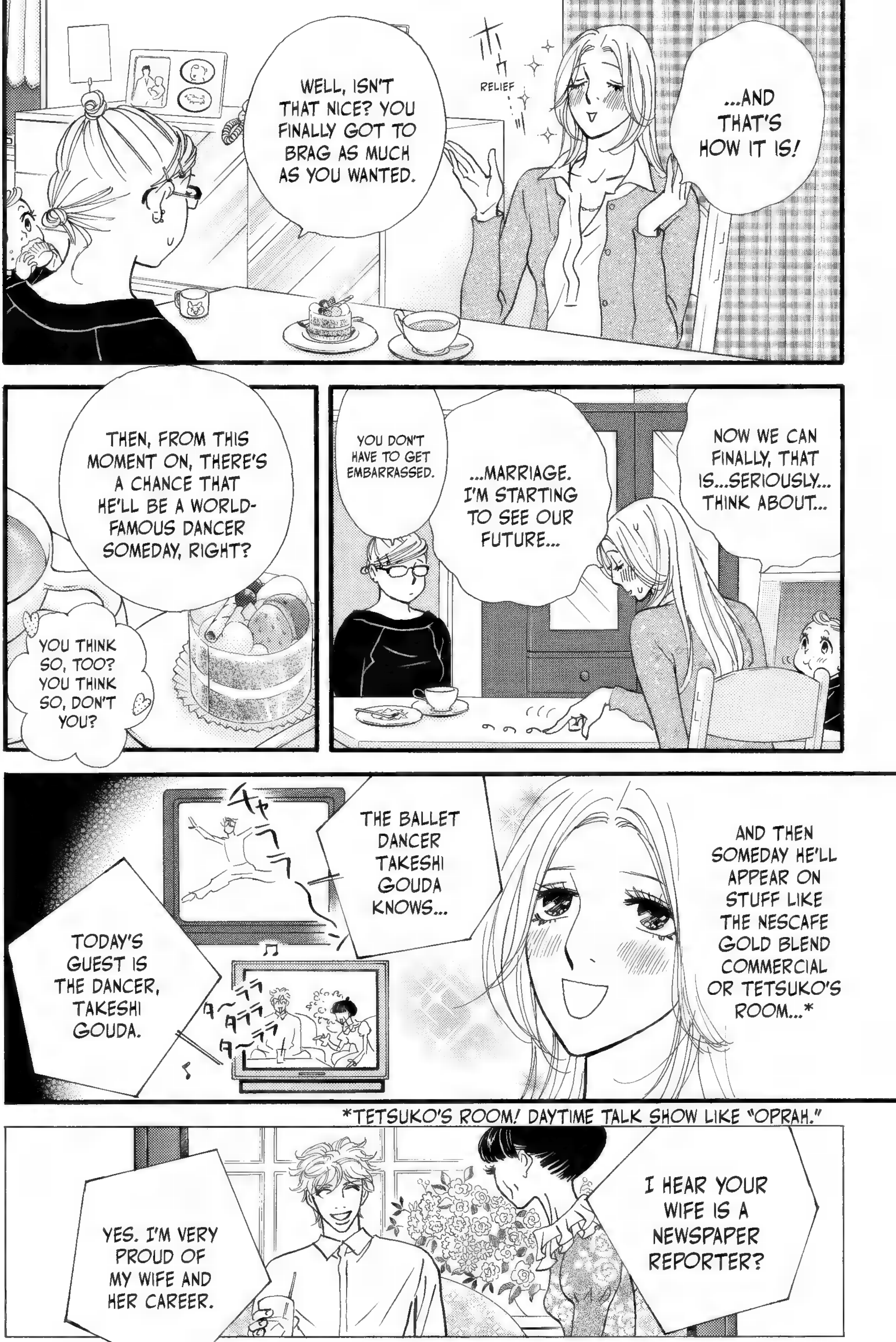
IT'S ANNE!
WHO'D SHE COME TO SEE?
...AND WHERE IS TAKESHI GOUDA?
IN STUDIO A.

I SEE...
R-I-I-I-N-G
R-I-I-I-N-G
NGH...
HELLO...
IT'S ME! ME! ME!
A "ME, ME" SCAM? I REFUSE...
I SAID IT'S YOUR SWEET LOLLIPOP!
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND SO NASTY.
WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?
I HAVE AN EARLY MEETING TOMORROW...
...WHAT?
...

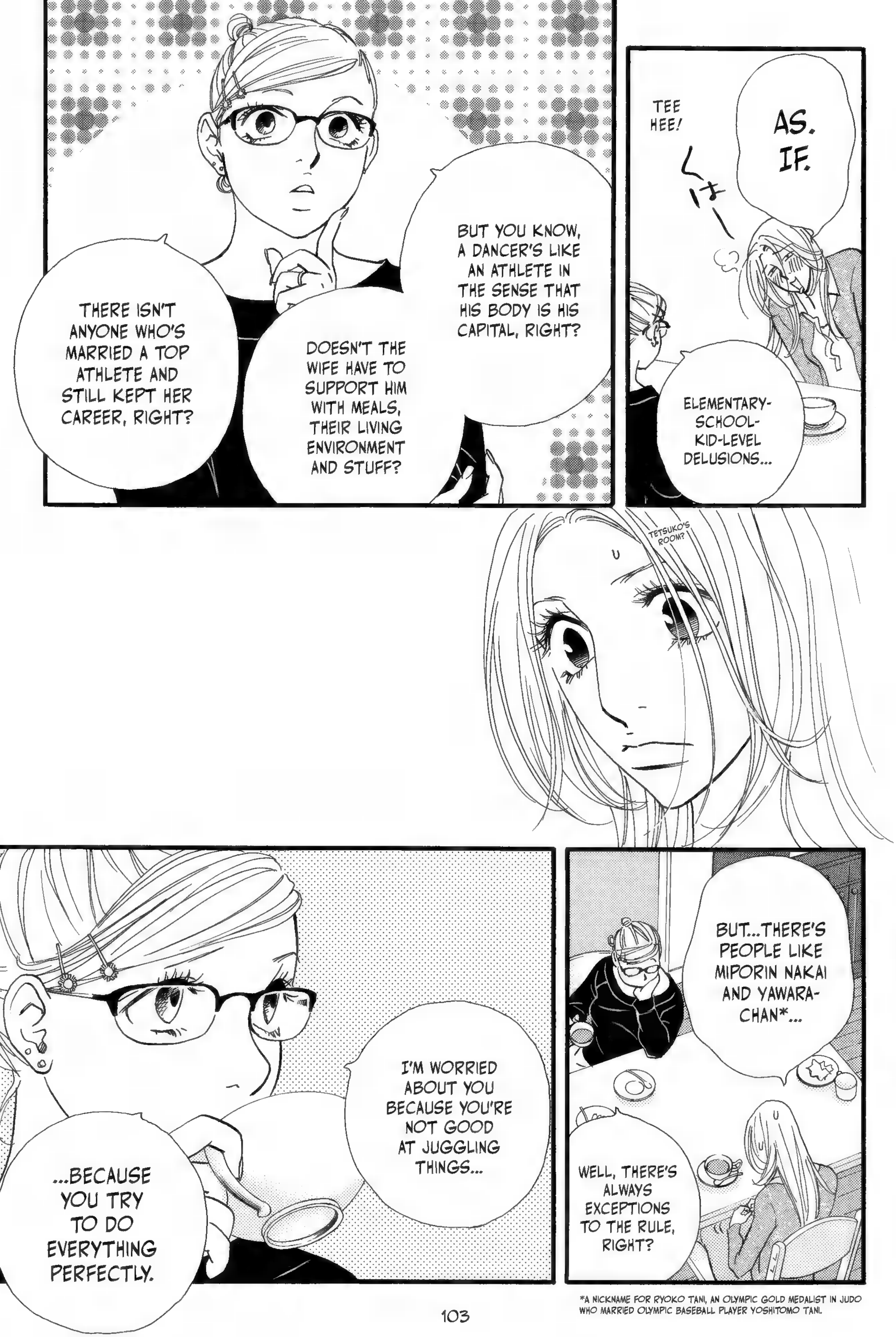
THEY CHOSE YOU AS THE LEAD ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
YEP, UM, IT'S SHORT TIME-WISE, BUT YOU COULD SAY IT'S A SYMBOLIC PART OF THE PIECE...
ANNE SAW ME AND ADDED THE PART AND--
OH! ANNE IS THE COMPANY'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND SHE'S ALSO A FAMOUS DANCER AND...
THEN, THEN, THE AUDITION?
DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO HIRE YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT SHOULD I DO, SUMIRE-CHAN? IS THIS FOR REAL?
PINCH MY CHEEK! PINCH IT!
PINCH.
OW OW OW!
SORRY WE'RE SUCH A SILLY COUPLE ALL THE TIME.

DYING TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT'S MAKING HER GRIN.

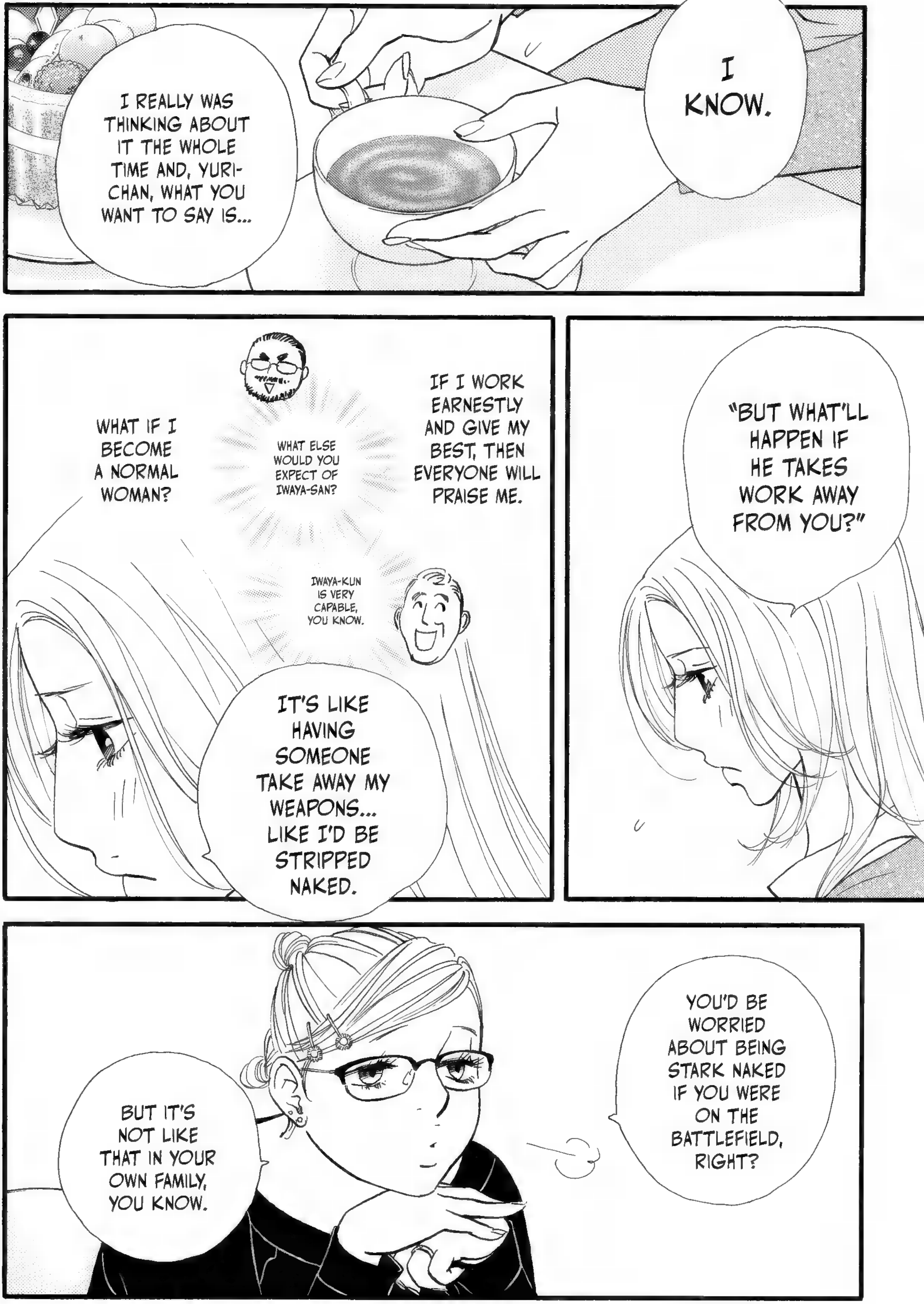
SHE'S AT THE AGE WHERE SUCH THINGS MATTER.
BUT A GROWN WOMAN IS ABOVE SUCH THINGS.
HOLD IT IN, HOLD IT IN... AND...
うず
うず
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR LUNCH? I'M GOING OUT.
OH!
WRONG NAME.
THAT'S NISHITANI-SAN FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT.
I BET EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, YET, HUH?
WOW! HE'S GOING TO DANCE A SOLO IN THE ROTAS PERFORMANCE?!
THAT'S AMAZING! HE IS SUCH A GENIUS!!
ニタ
UMM, I'M GOING TO GO ON AHEAD, OKAY?

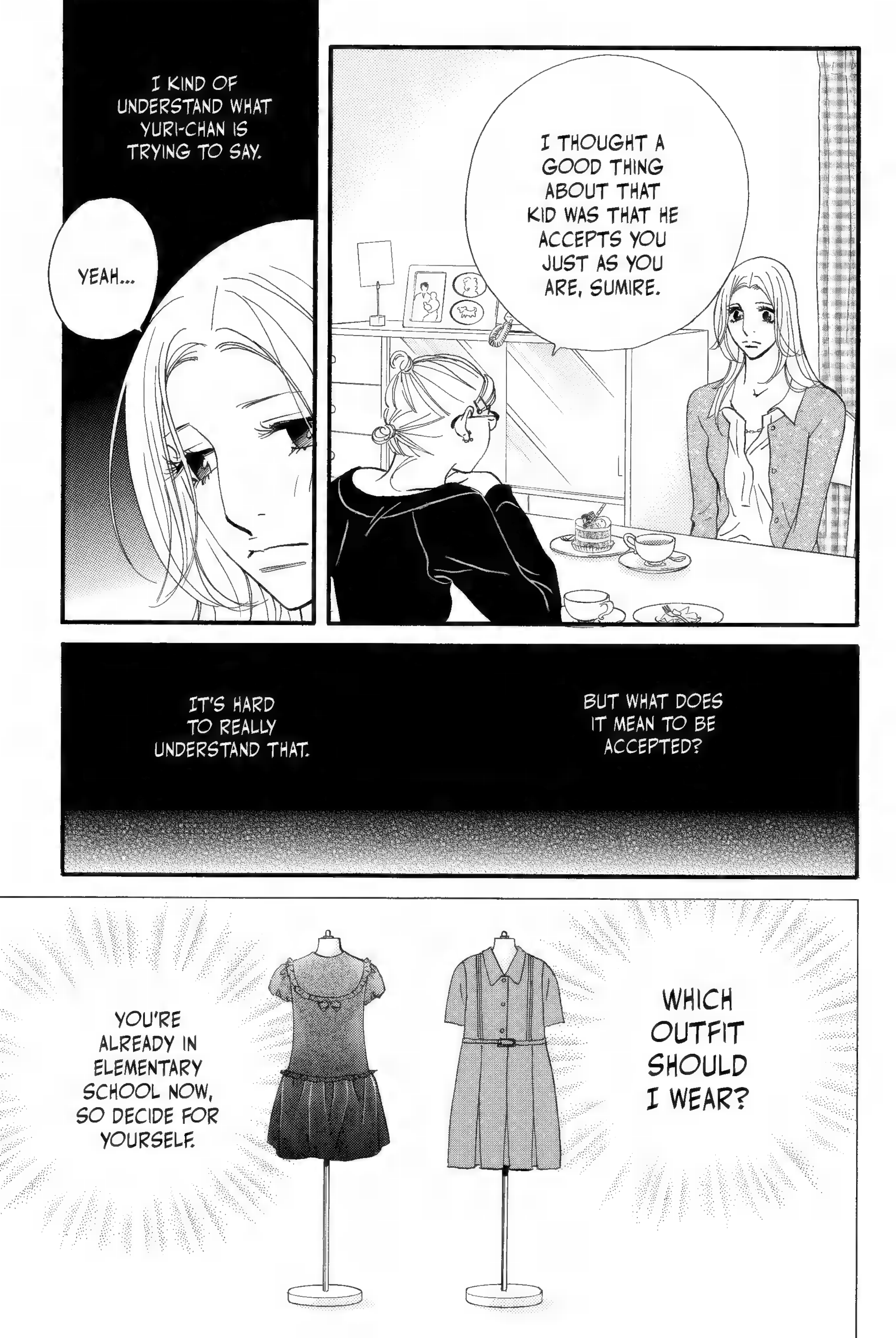


*TETSUKO'S ROOM! DAYTIME TALK SHOW LIKE "OPRAH."

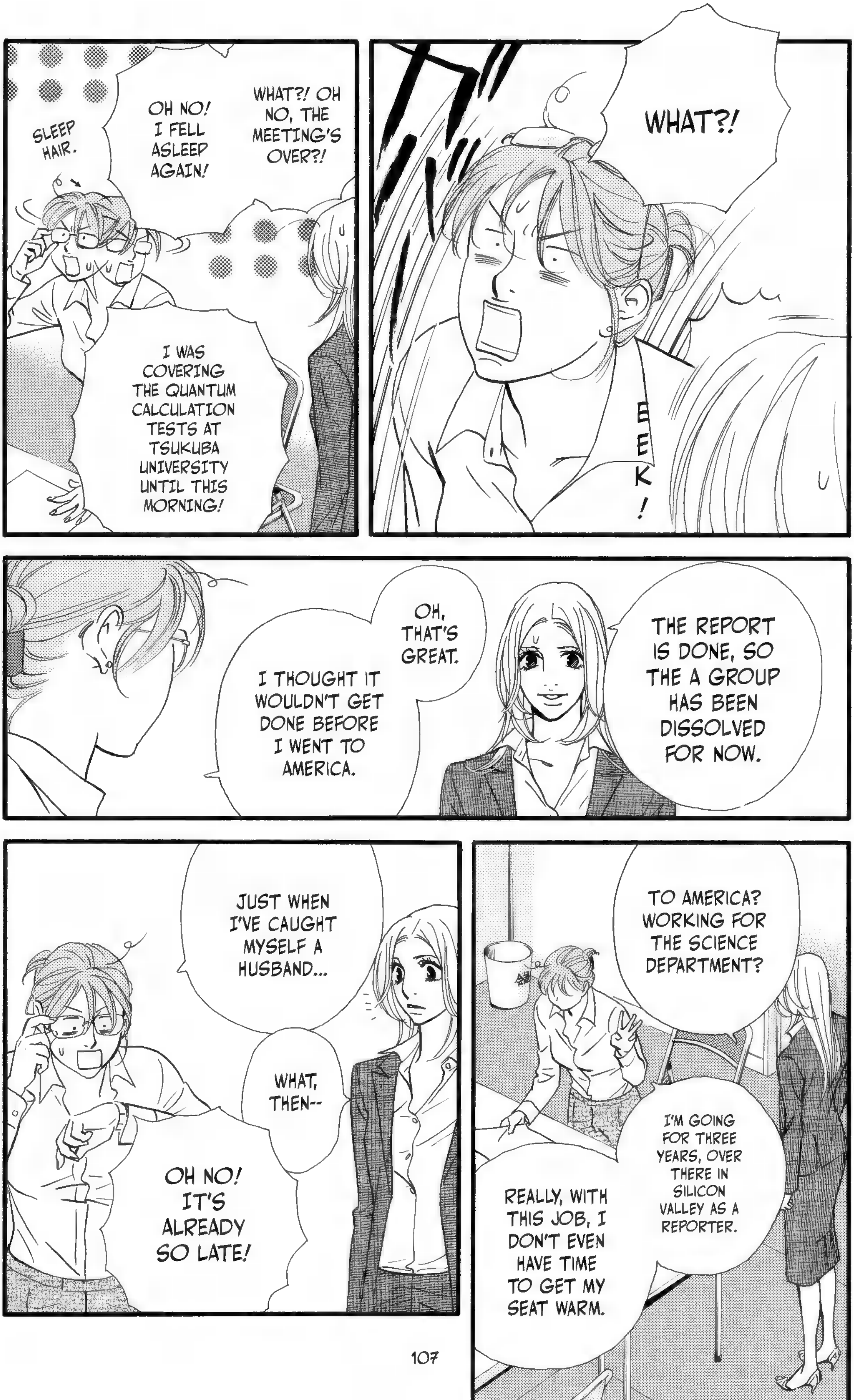


*A NICKNAME FOR RYOKO TANI, AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST IN JUDO WHO MARRIED OLYMPIC BASEBALL PLAYER YOSHITOMO TANI.


I REALLY WAS THINKING ABOUT IT THE WHOLE TIME AND, YURI-CHAN, WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY IS...
I KNOW.
IF I WORK EARNESTLY AND GIVE MY BEST, THEN EVERYONE WILL PRAISE ME.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT OF IWAYA-SAN?
WHAT IF I BECOME A NORMAL WOMAN?
IWAYA-KUN IS VERY CAPABLE, YOU KNOW.
IT'S LIKE HAVING SOMEONE TAKE AWAY MY WEAPONS... LIKE I'D BE STRIPPED NAKED.
"BUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE TAKES WORK AWAY FROM YOU?"
YOU'D BE WORRIED ABOUT BEING STARK NAKED IF YOU WERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT IN YOUR OWN FAMILY, YOU KNOW.


I THOUGHT A GOOD THING ABOUT THAT KID WAS THAT HE ACCEPTS YOU JUST AS YOU ARE, SUMIRE.
YEAH...
I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHAT YURI-CHAN IS TRYING TO SAY.
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ACCEPTED?
IT'S HARD TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT.
WHICH OUTFIT SHOULD I WEAR?
YOU'RE ALREADY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW, SO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

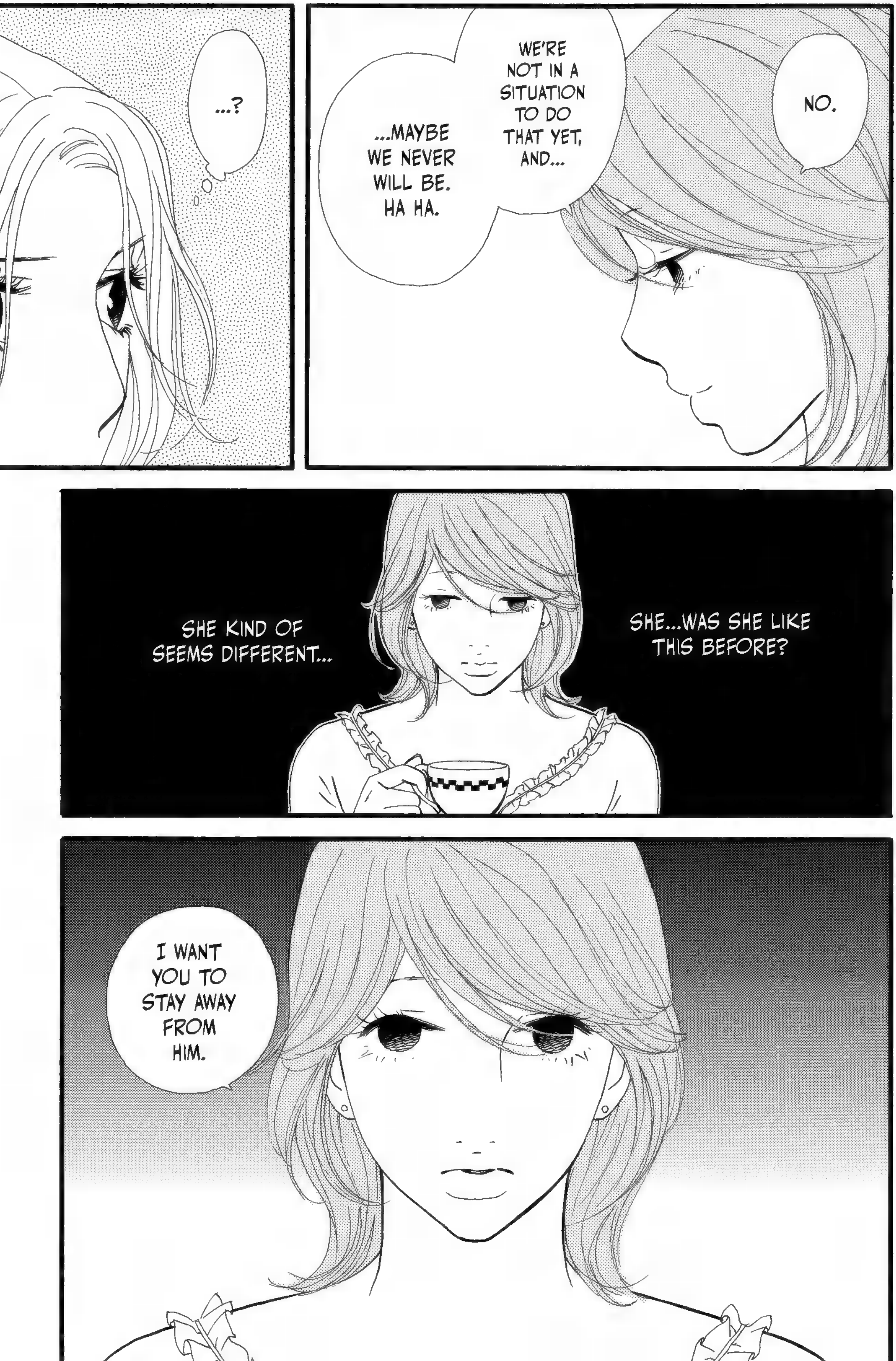
YOU DECIDE, BIG SISTER...
NO.
THEN, GRANDFATHER...
NO, YOU HAVE TO DECIDE.
...SO THAT'S OKAY, THEN.
THEN WITH THIS, I'D LIKE TO DISSOLVE THE PAGE SPACE RENOVATION GROUP A.
THANK YOU FOR THE HARD WORK.
I WAS NODDING OFF DURING THE MEETING.
SO IT'S THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE FINAL REPORT IS PRESENTED.
FINALLY, EH?
JUST HAVE SOMEONE WITH MORE TIME DO IT.
EXCUSE ME... UMM...
FURUTACHI-SAN?
THE MEETING IS OVER.


WHAT?!
WHAT?! OH NO, THE MEETING'S OVER?!
OH NO! I FELL ASLEEP AGAIN!
SLEEP HAIR.
I WAS COVERING THE QUANTUM CALCULATION TESTS AT TSUKUBA UNIVERSITY UNTIL THIS MORNING!
EEK!
THE REPORT IS DONE, SO THE A GROUP HAS BEEN DISSOLVED FOR NOW.
OH, THAT'S GREAT.
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T GET DONE BEFORE I WENT TO AMERICA.
TO AMERICA? WORKING FOR THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT?
I'M GOING FOR THREE YEARS, OVER THERE IN SILICON VALLEY AS A REPORTER.
REALLY, WITH THIS JOB, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO GET MY SEAT WARM.
JUST WHEN I'VE CAUGHT MYSELF A HUSBAND...
WHAT, THEN--
OH NO! IT'S ALREADY SO LATE!

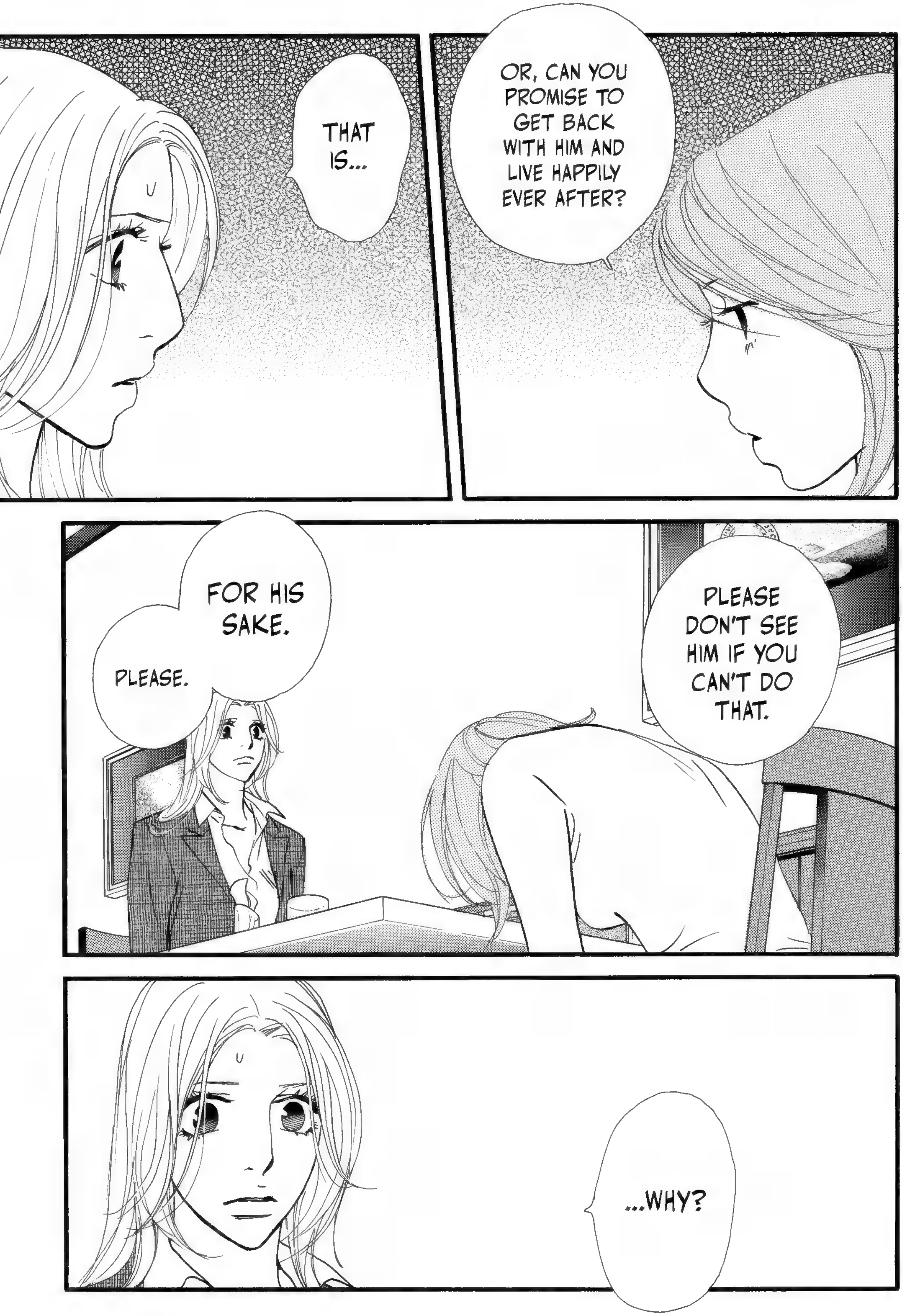
*WHERE JAPAN'S SPACE PROGRAM HAS A LAUNCH COMPLEX.

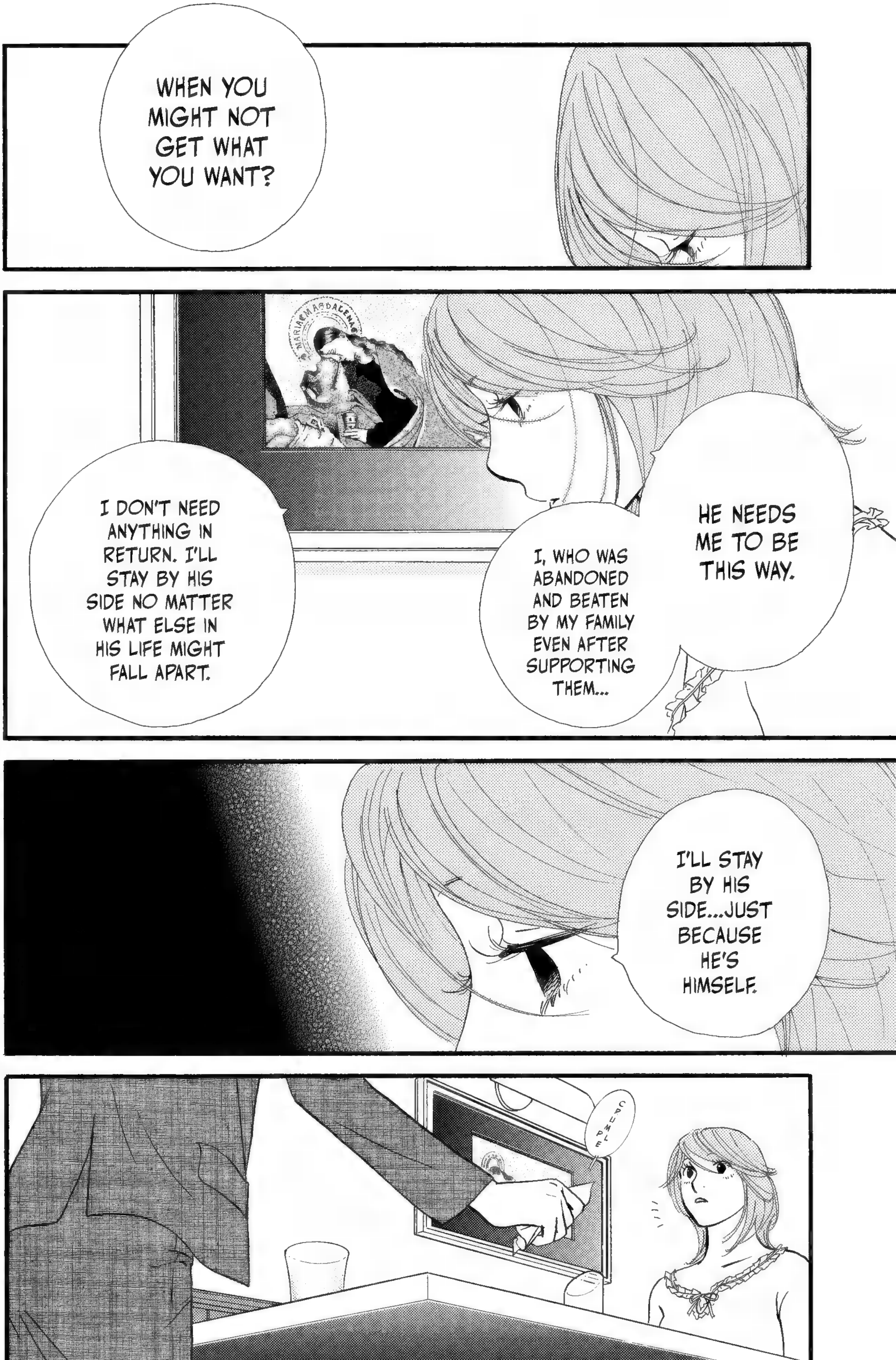
WELL, NOT OUR PROBLEM.
BEING A WORKING WOMAN IS LIKE A SURVIVAL GAME, ISN'T IT?
ONE AFTER ANOTHER, YOUR COMRADES DISAPPEAR.
HA HA HA...
RRR...
YES? THIS IS THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT.
YES, THIS IS SHE, BUT...
...EXCUSE ME?
FIRST OFF, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW...
café
café

...I'M LIVING WITH HASUMI-SAN RIGHT NOW.
YOU AREN'T REALLY SURPRISED, ARE YOU?
I HAD MY IDEAS.
HOWEVER, I DIDN'T KNOW FOR SURE AND I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.
HE'S DOING WELL, YOU KNOW. HE'S BEEN REASSIGNED TO A LOCAL DEPARTMENT. HE'S IN NAGANO RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE COLD PLACES, BUT IT SEEMS TO SUIT HIM.
...ARE YOU MARRIED?


NO.
WE'RE NOT IN A SITUATION TO DO THAT YET, AND...
...MAYBE WE NEVER WILL BE. HA HA.
...?
SHE...WAS SHE LIKE THIS BEFORE?
SHE KIND OF SEEMS DIFFERENT...
I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM.

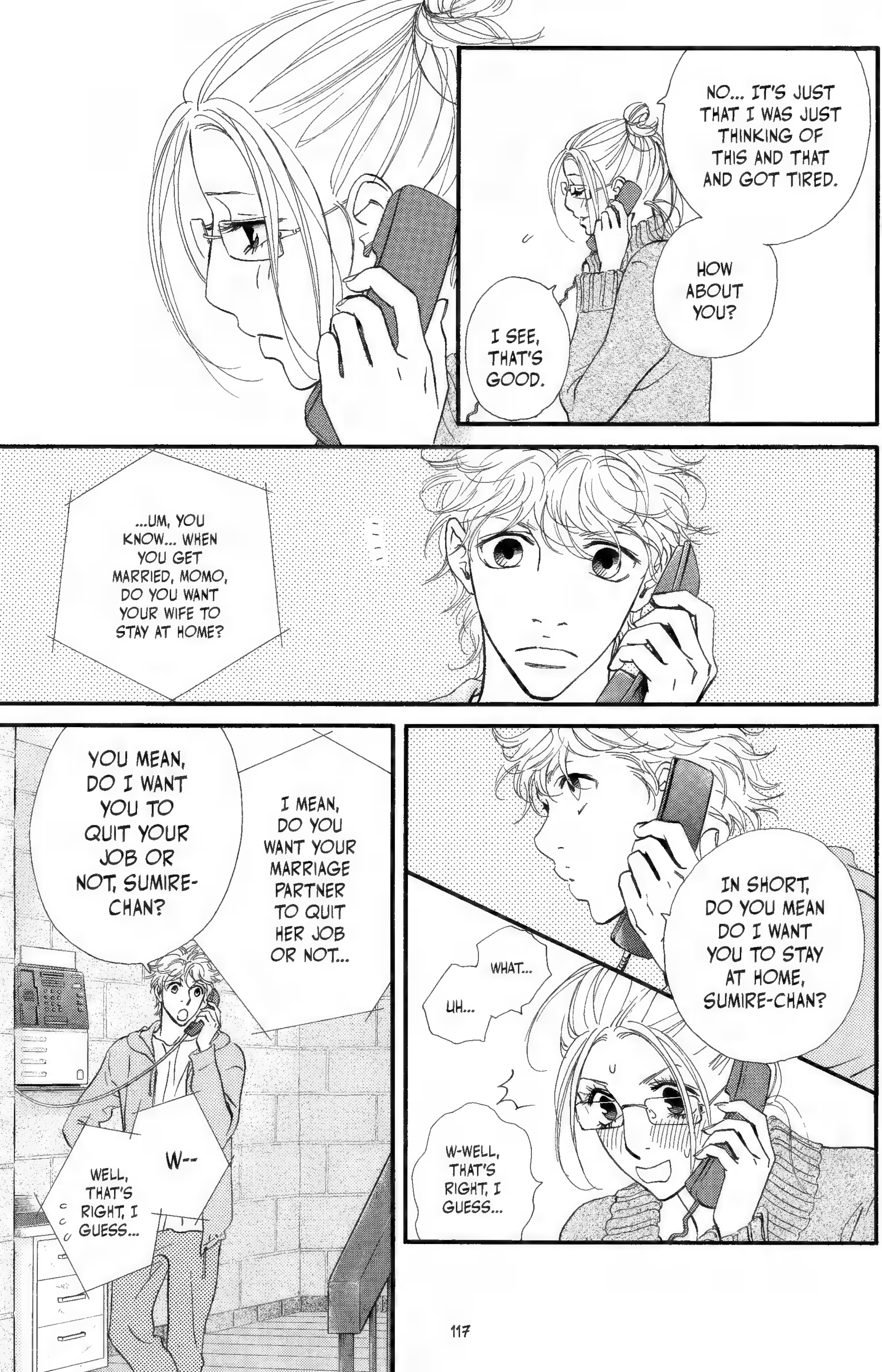
HE'S SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE HEAD OFFICE NEXT MONDAY.
IT'LL JUST BE FOR AN HOUR, STARTING AT 2 P.M.
COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE WORK, JUST DURING THAT TIMEFRAME?
YOU ...
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO ORDER ME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I KNOW I'M BEING SELFISH, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET ALL UPSET FROM SEEING YOU ANYMORE.
HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT, BUT... HE'S STILL MENTALLY UNSTABLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE SEES YOU NOW.


OR, CAN YOU PROMISE TO GET BACK WITH HIM AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?
THAT IS...
PLEASE DON'T SEE HIM IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
FOR HIS SAKE.
PLEASE.
...WHY?

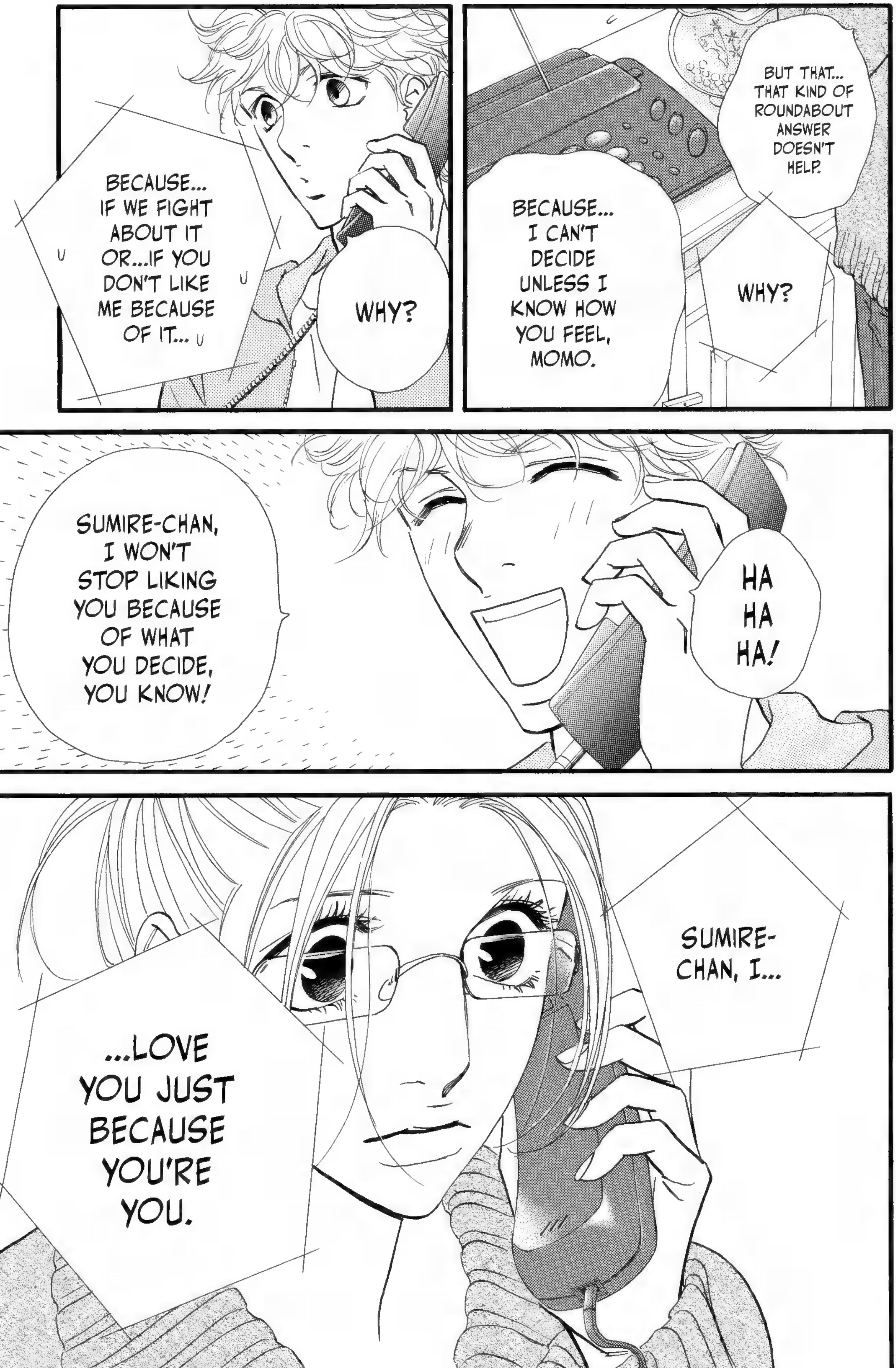

WHEN YOU MIGHT NOT GET WHAT YOU WANT?
HE NEEDS ME TO BE THIS WAY.
I, WHO WAS ABANDONED AND BEATEN BY MY FAMILY EVEN AFTER SUPPORTING THEM...
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING IN RETURN. I'LL STAY BY HIS SIDE NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IN HIS LIFE MIGHT FALL APART.
I'LL STAY BY HIS SIDE...JUST BECAUSE HE'S HIMSELF.
CRUMPLE

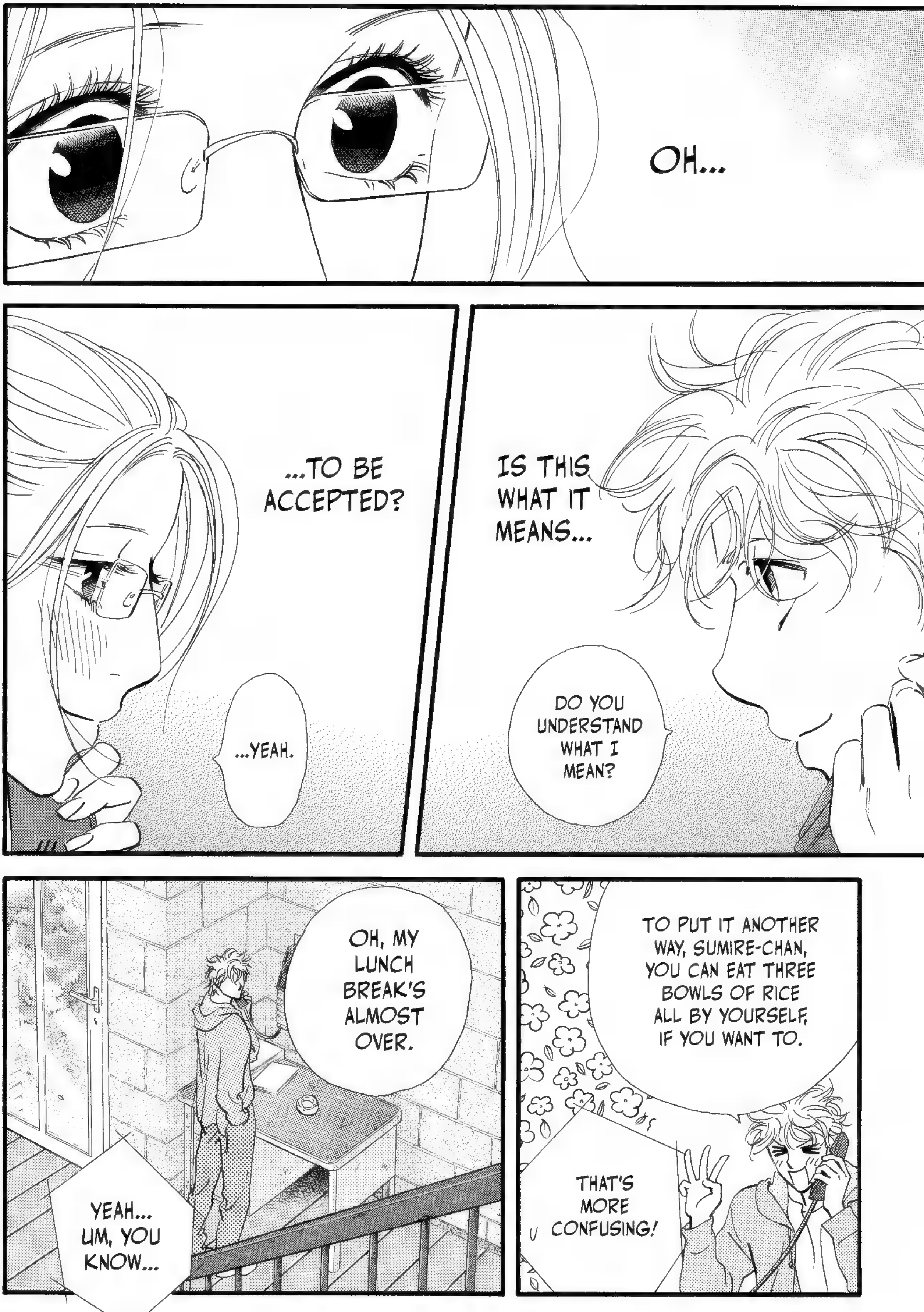
NEXT MONDAY, RIGHT?
I WILL TAKE A SICK DAY AND CLEAN MY HOUSE, OR SOMETHING.
OH...
...I'LL PAY FOR THE COFFEE.
PLEASE DON'T.
AT LEAST LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS.
I CANNOT WITHDRAW IF I HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED, CAN I?

FUKUSHIMA-SAN, THE WAY SHE IS NOW...
...WOULD DEFINITELY PUT HASUMI-SENPAI BEFORE WORK. OR ANYTHING, FOR THAT MATTER...
HI, THIS IS YOUR SNICKERS BAR.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD STOP MENTIONING BRAND NAMES?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR VOICE IS KIND OF LOW.
WERE YOU ASLEEP ALREADY?


NO... IT'S JUST THAT I WAS JUST THINKING OF THIS AND THAT AND GOT TIRED.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD.
...UM, YOU KNOW... WHEN YOU GET MARRIED, MOMO, DO YOU WANT YOUR WIFE TO STAY AT HOME?
I MEAN, DO YOU WANT YOUR MARRIAGE PARTNER TO QUIT HER JOB OR NOT...
YOU MEAN, DO I WANT YOU TO QUIT YOUR JOB OR NOT, SUMIRE-CHAN?
W--
WELL, THAT'S RIGHT, I GUESS...
IN SHORT, DO YOU MEAN DO I WANT YOU TO STAY AT HOME, SUMIRE-CHAN?
WHAT...
UH...
W-WELL, THAT'S RIGHT, I GUESS...

WELL, THAT'S RIGHT, HUH...
HUH?
THUMP
THUMP
EITHER WAY'S FINE!
WHAT!!
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER! THINK ABOUT IT HARDER! IT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO THINK ABOUT IT RIGHT, SUMIRE-CHAN?
AFTER ALL, IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO DECIDE, SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHAT...?


BUT THAT... THAT KIND OF ROUNDABOUT ANSWER DOESN'T HELP.
WHY?
BECAUSE... I CAN'T DECIDE UNLESS I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MOMO.
WHY?
BECAUSE... IF WE FIGHT ABOUT IT OR...IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME BECAUSE OF IT...
HA HA HA!
SUMIRE-CHAN, I WON'T STOP LIKING YOU BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DECIDE, YOU KNOW!
SUMIRE-CHAN, I...
...LOVE YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU.


OH...
IS THIS WHAT IT MEANS...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN?
...TO BE ACCEPTED?
...YEAH.
TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, SUMIRE-CHAN, YOU CAN EAT THREE BOWLS OF RICE ALL BY YOURSELF, IF YOU WANT TO.
THAT'S MORE CONFUSING!
OH, MY LUNCH BREAK'S ALMOST OVER.
YEAH... UM, YOU KNOW...

...I LOVE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE TOO, MOMO.
じーーーん…
CRAZY, UNUSUALLY DIRECT WORDS!
AFTER THAT STATEMENT, IT'S UP TO SEVEN BOWLS!
STUPID.
BIG SISTER?
WHICH OUTFIT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD WEAR?
YOU'RE ALREADY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW, SO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.
BUT...IF I WEAR CLOTHES THAT GRANDFATHER DOESN'T LIKE...
...HE WON'T LIKE ME.

SILLY.
GRANDFATHER WILL NOT HATE YOU FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SO CHOOSE WHAT YOU LIKE.
IT WASN'T "YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF."
IT WAS "YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF," WASN'T IT?
MAYBE A LITTLE OF MY INDECISIVENESS WILL BE CURED.
WITHOUT WAITING FOR HER SLOW FEELINGS TO CATCH UP...
...THE TIME FOR THE DECISION CREEPS CLOSER AND CLOSER.
WAIT, NEXT ISSUE!

RULE 75: NEVER SAY DIE

AUTUMN...
OH...THE WATER'S GREAT.
THE FACES OF OUR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT ARE...
EMMA, YOU REALLY HAVE A GREAT BODY, DON'T YOU?
HAMANO-SAN.
SO TRUE... I AM ENVIOUS.
SUBCON-SCIOUSLY HUNCHES OVER.
YOU THINK SO? IWAYA HAS PRETTY LEGS, TOO, EH?
AND YOUR SKIN'S SO SMOOTH! WHAT BODY SOAP DO YOU USE?
IT'S BUBBLE BATH SOAP...
BECAUSE MY SKIN'S SENSITIVE.
THIS? LET ME USE IT! LET ME USE IT!
...

*A JAPANESE HOT SPRING.

YOU CAN'T SIT CROSS-LEGGED EITHER?
THEN MY UNDERWEAR WILL SHOW.
EMMA, IS A TATAMI ROOM OKAY WITH YOU?
I MAY BE A FOREIGNER, BUT I'VE STUDIED JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY FOR THREE YEARS, YOU KNOW.
LOOKS LIKE HUGH'S SUFFERING, EH?
AS I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW, THE NEW SPECIAL ISSUE IS REALLY POPULAR.
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE, BUT...
...THERE'S ALSO AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE.
HUGH, EMMA?
COUGH
UMM... THE TRUTH IS, WE...
...ARE FINALLY GETTING MARRIED!

WHAT? IS THAT TRUE?!
CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT!
AND... YOU KNOW, HUGH'S WANTED FOR A WHILE TO BASE HIMSELF IN AMERICA AND...
...I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK WITH HIM.
TO AMERICA? WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
THERE'S A POST AT THE C TIMES HEADQUARTERS.
IT'LL BE SAD, LEAVING JAPAN, BUT...
YOU'LL BE FINE, WON'T YOU? MY LOVE RUNNETH OVER!
REALLY, YOU'RE SO STUPID.
I HOPE IT DOESN'T RUNNETH OVER UNTIL IT'S EMPTY.
HAMANO-SAN, THAT'S A CURSE! A CURSE!
DON'T GIVE THEM AN AURA OF DEFEAT!

EVEN SO, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST AND LAST TIME FOR THIS KIND OF THING, WON'T IT?
WHY IS THAT?
IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT, THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE ARE USUALLY A LOT COOLER.
MOST OF THE STAFF HAVE YEARLY CONTRACTS, AND THE WORKERS ARE HERE IN BETWEEN POSITIONS.
THAT, AND NORMAL FOREIGNERS DON'T WANT TO DO STUFF LIKE EMPLOYEE TRIPS.
MMM, THIS ABALONE'S SOFT.
I SEE...
BUT WHAT'S REALLY UNUSUAL IS YOU!
WHAT? M-ME?
STRAIGHT OUT!
RIGHT! THE WAY YOU'RE SO INDIVIDUALISTIC, IT'S SO NOT JAPANESE.
OR SHOULD I SAY, YOU DO YOUR OWN THING?
YOU HAVE THAT "EVERYONE ELSE IS A LOWER LIFE FORM" KIND OF EXPRESSION AND...
WHAT... DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT?
YEAH, IT'S TRUE. IT'S GOTTEN BETTER, BUT...
...BEFORE, IT WAS INTOLERABLE, YOU KNOW?
SHOCK
ガーン
A DRUNK PERSON'S TRUE THOUGHTS ARE SCARY.
S-SO THAT'S HOW IT MUST HAVE LOOKED...

BUT...
...IF I DID CHANGE, THEN IT'S PROBABLY...
...BECAUSE I LIVED WITH MOMO.
MOMO WAS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE AND ACCEPTED ALL MY FEELINGS...
...SO I WAS ABLE TO BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AND KIND TO OTHER PEOPLE, TOO.
SUMIRE-CHAN...
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR HIM...
...NOW THAT WE'RE SO FAR APART?

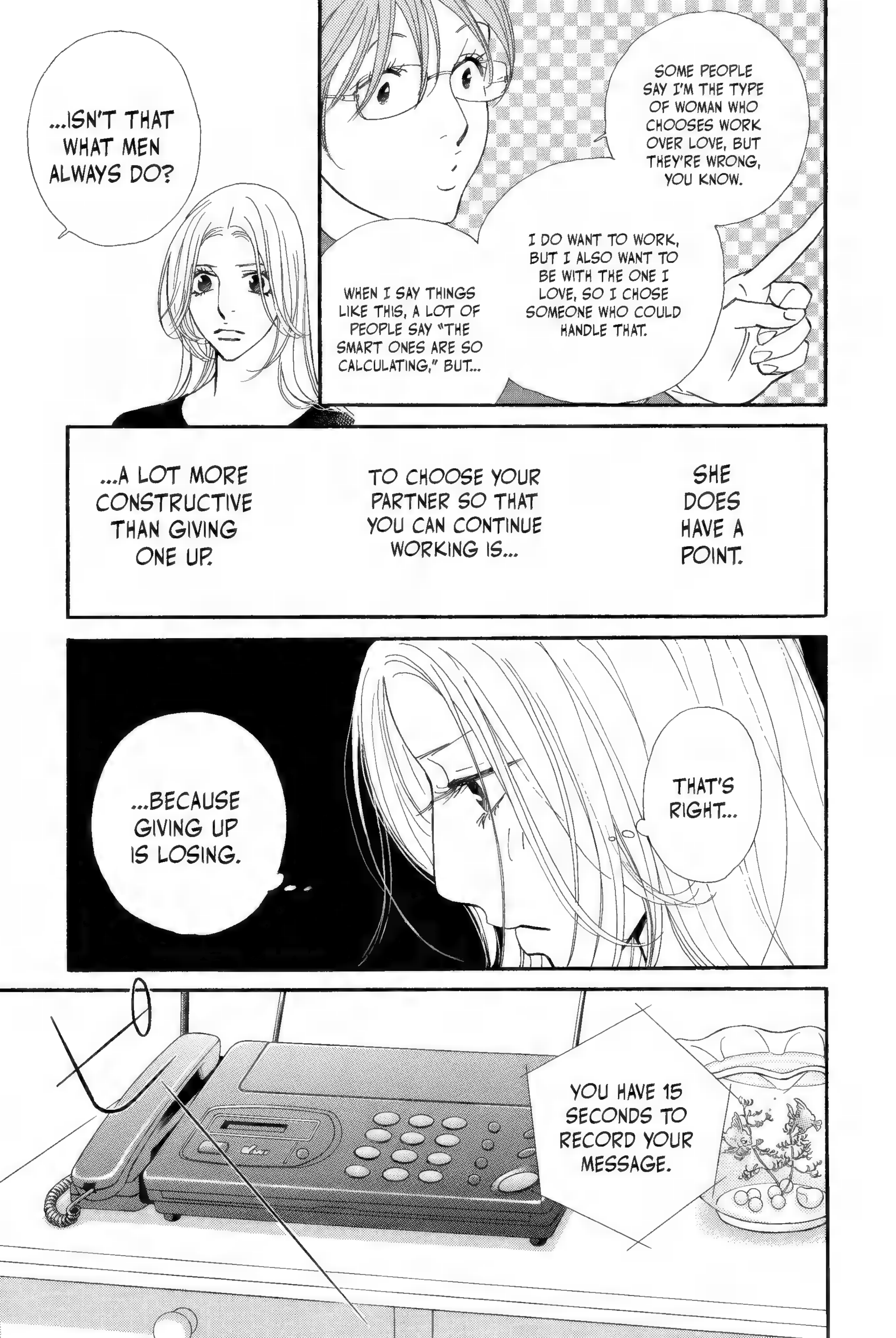
WHAT, ARE YOU GOING BACK TO WORK, TOO?
YES, I AM... THERE IS A FAX COMMUNICATION THAT I MUST CONFIRM.
THEN, I'M SORRY TO DO IT WHILE WALKING, CAN I TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING?
YES?
IT'S ABOUT THAT MOVE TO THE WORLD NEWS DEPARTMENT.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO WAIT UNTIL THE OFFICE TRANSFER PERIOD.
I HAVE TO GIVE THEM YOUR ANSWER BY NEXT WEEK.
IT'S A SHAME, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE HIGHER-UPS HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR DECISION.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HAVE A SPECIAL REASON TO STAY PUT, THE NOTICE OF PERSONNEL CHANGE WILL GO OUT, YOU KNOW.

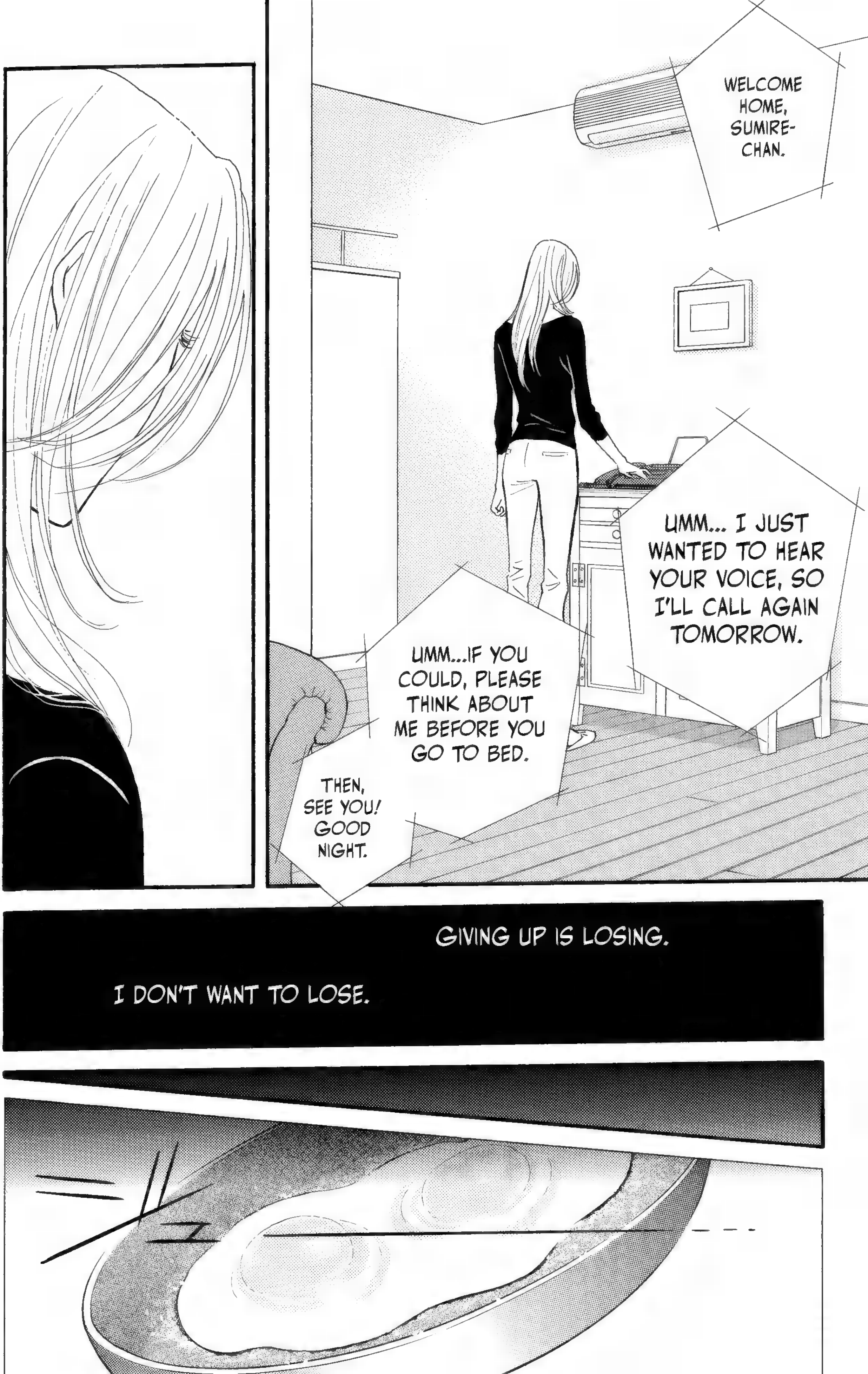
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR NEW POST WILL BE IN LONDON.
1,200 EUROS, HMM...
THERE'S NO CHEAPER, SMALLER PLACE?
A RABBIT HUTCH WOULD BE FINE! OR JUST A HUT.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE, TAKESHI?
IS IT BECAUSE RUMI AND I ARE GOING OUT? WE CAN'T BE ROOMMATES ANYMORE?
NO, NO...
I'M JUST LOOKING TO GET A GENERAL IDEA FOR THE FUTURE, THAT'S ALL.
A PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHO'S IN JAPAN?
YEAH...
...THAT'S RIGHT...

BY THE WAY, RUMI GOT MAD AND BIT ME AGAIN.
TOOTH MARKS! YOU'VE GOT IT HARD, DON'T YOU?
I SAID ALL THAT STUFF TO MAKE ME LOOK GOOD LAST TIME, SO, YOU KNOW...
I CAN RETURN TO WORLD NEWS.
PLUS LONDON IS ONLY ABOUT... THREE HOURS FROM BRUSSELS ON THE EUROSTAR?
WE COULDN'T LIVE TOGETHER, BUT WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN THAN WE CAN NOW...
IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL, IS IT?

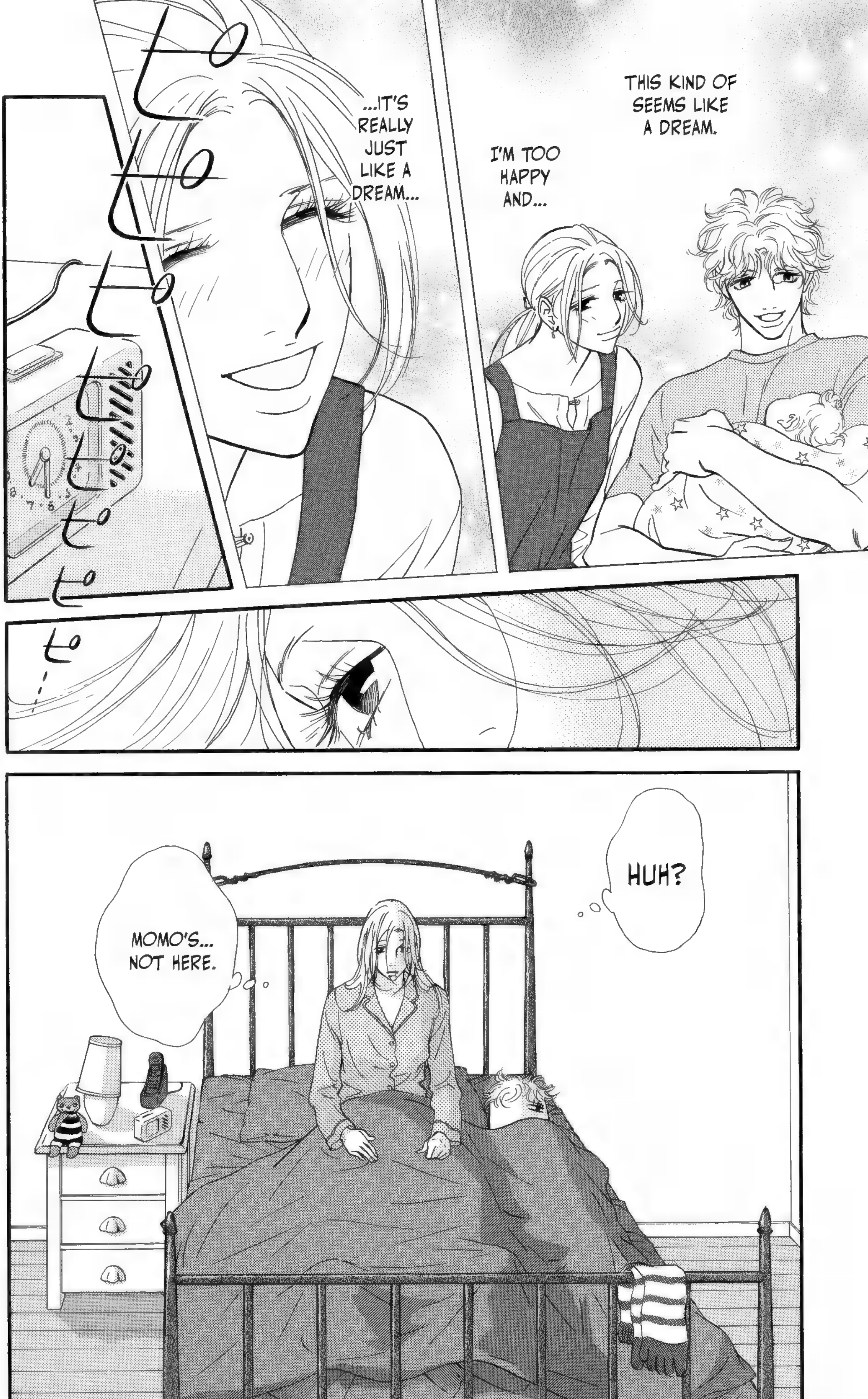
THE ISSUE IS THAT I WON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'LL RELOCATE ME AGAIN.
AND MOMO, TOO... IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GOING TO BE IN BELGIUM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
IWAYA-SAN!
HUH, WHAT?!
OH... FURUTACHI-SAN.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. BUT THEN, THIS IS ABOUT THE ONLY STORE OPEN ON SUNDAY AROUND HERE ANYWAY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, DIDN'T YOU GO TO TANEGASHIMA?
THEY POSTPONED THE LAUNCH AGAIN, SO I CAME BACK.
BECAUSE I JUST LEFT MY HUSBAND HANGING, YOU KNOW.
SATSU-CHAN!
TETSU-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
I ONLY HAVE 500 YEN IN MY ACCOUNT.
COULD YOU PLEASE LEND ME 1000 YEN?
OH, IWAYA-SAN, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS MY HUSBAND, TETSU-CHAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

HUSBAND?!
WE'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT THIS IS MY YOUNGER STEPBROTHER, TETSU-CHAN.
OR...
THIS IS TETSU-CHAN, THE ACTOR THAT I CAPTURED WITH MONEY BECAUSE HE WAS BROKE.
SO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE SWEATING. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OH NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS YOUR HUSBAND GOING WITH YOU TO AMERICA?
UMM...
HMM?
GOOD QUESTION... HE'S AN ACTOR, BUT...
...HE SAYS HE'LL COME AFTER THE RUN OF HIS CURRENT PLAY IS OVER.
BUT I TOLD HIM IT'S A WASTE OF TIME THAT COULD BE VALUABLE FOR HIS CAREER IN JAPAN, AND SO WE CAN'T HELP BEING SEPARATED FOR THREE YEARS.
AS IF! I SAID THAT ALL SWEETLY AND HE LIVED UP TO MY EXPECTATIONS BY INSISTING HE'D COME WITH ME!!
IWAYA-SAN, YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE YOUR MAN WELL, TOO, IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THIS LINE OF WORK!
I GOT ENGAGED THREE TIMES! BUT I FINALLY FOUND A WINNER!

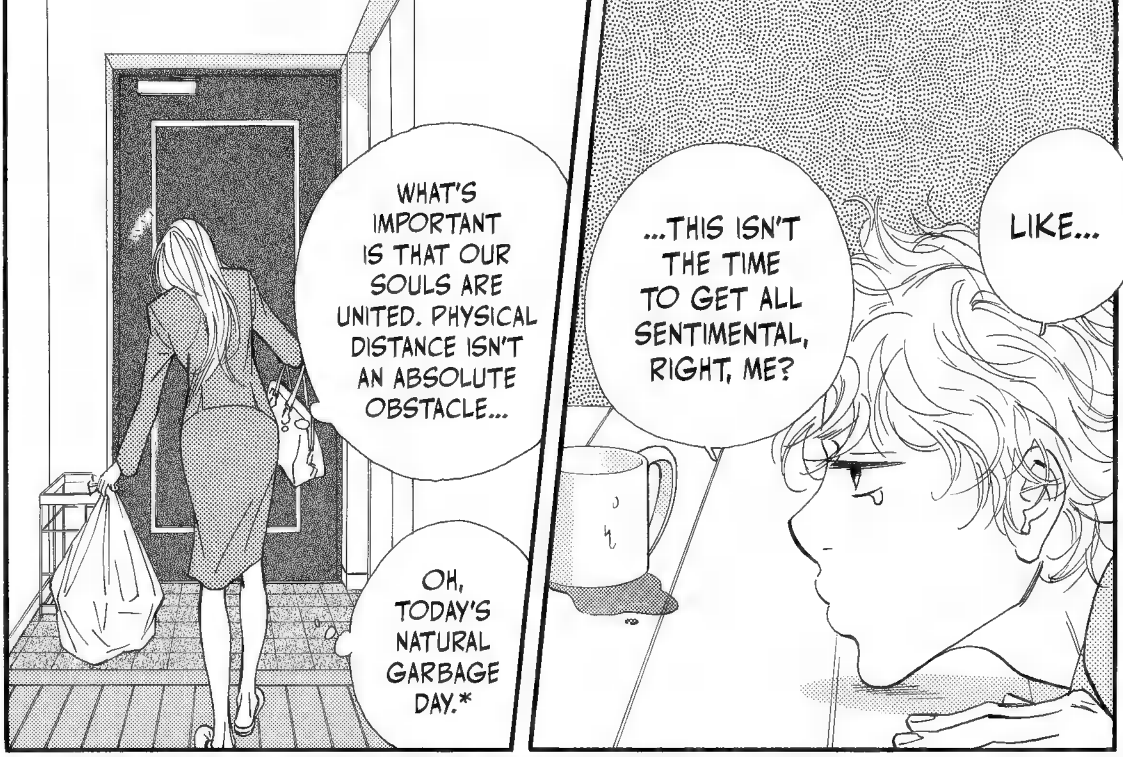

SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M THE TYPE OF WOMAN WHO CHOOSES WORK OVER LOVE, BUT THEY'RE WRONG, YOU KNOW.
I DO WANT TO WORK, BUT I ALSO WANT TO BE WITH THE ONE I LOVE, SO I CHOSE SOMEONE WHO COULD HANDLE THAT.
WHEN I SAY THINGS LIKE THIS, A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY "THE SMART ONES ARE SO CALCULATING," BUT...
...ISN'T THAT WHAT MEN ALWAYS DO?
SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.
TO CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER SO THAT YOU CAN CONTINUE WORKING IS...
...A LOT MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN GIVING ONE UP.
THAT'S RIGHT...
...BECAUSE GIVING UP IS LOSING.
YOU HAVE 15 SECONDS TO RECORD YOUR MESSAGE.


WELCOME HOME, SUMIRE-CHAN.
UMM... I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, SO I'LL CALL AGAIN TOMORROW.
UMM...IF YOU COULD, PLEASE THINK ABOUT ME BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.
THEN, SEE YOU! GOOD NIGHT.
GIVING UP IS LOSING.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE.

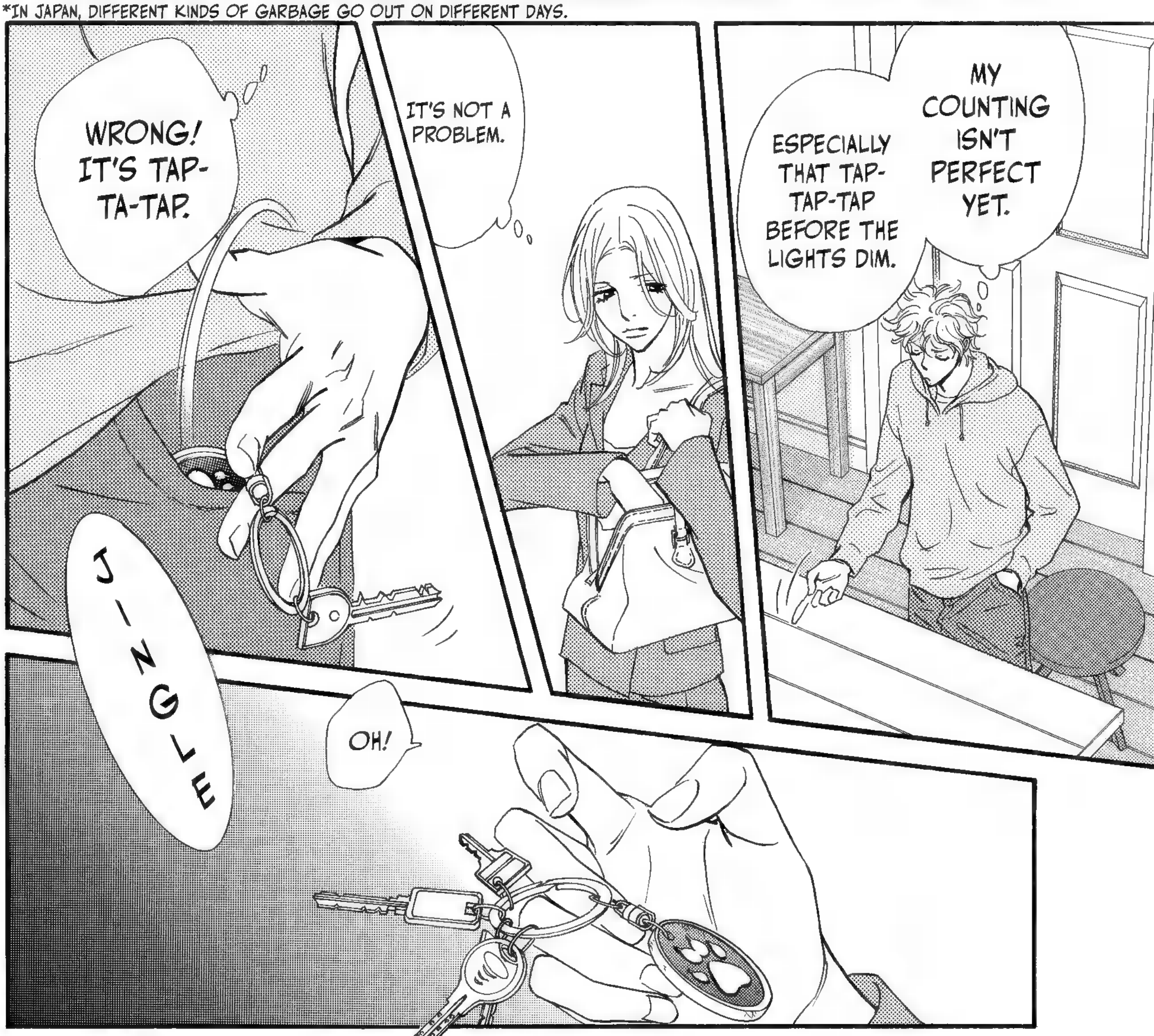
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I MADE A REAL BREAKFAST LIKE THIS.
FRIED EGGS AND OCTOPUS-SHAPED SAUSAGE...
...AND A CAFE AU LAIT WITH PLENTY OF MILK.
MORNING, SUMIRE-CHAN.
MORNING, MOMO.
HUH? ARE WE STILL LIVING TOGETHER?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I GOT MARRIED.
I EVEN HAVE A BABY...
...WITH CURLS, JUST LIKE MOMO.

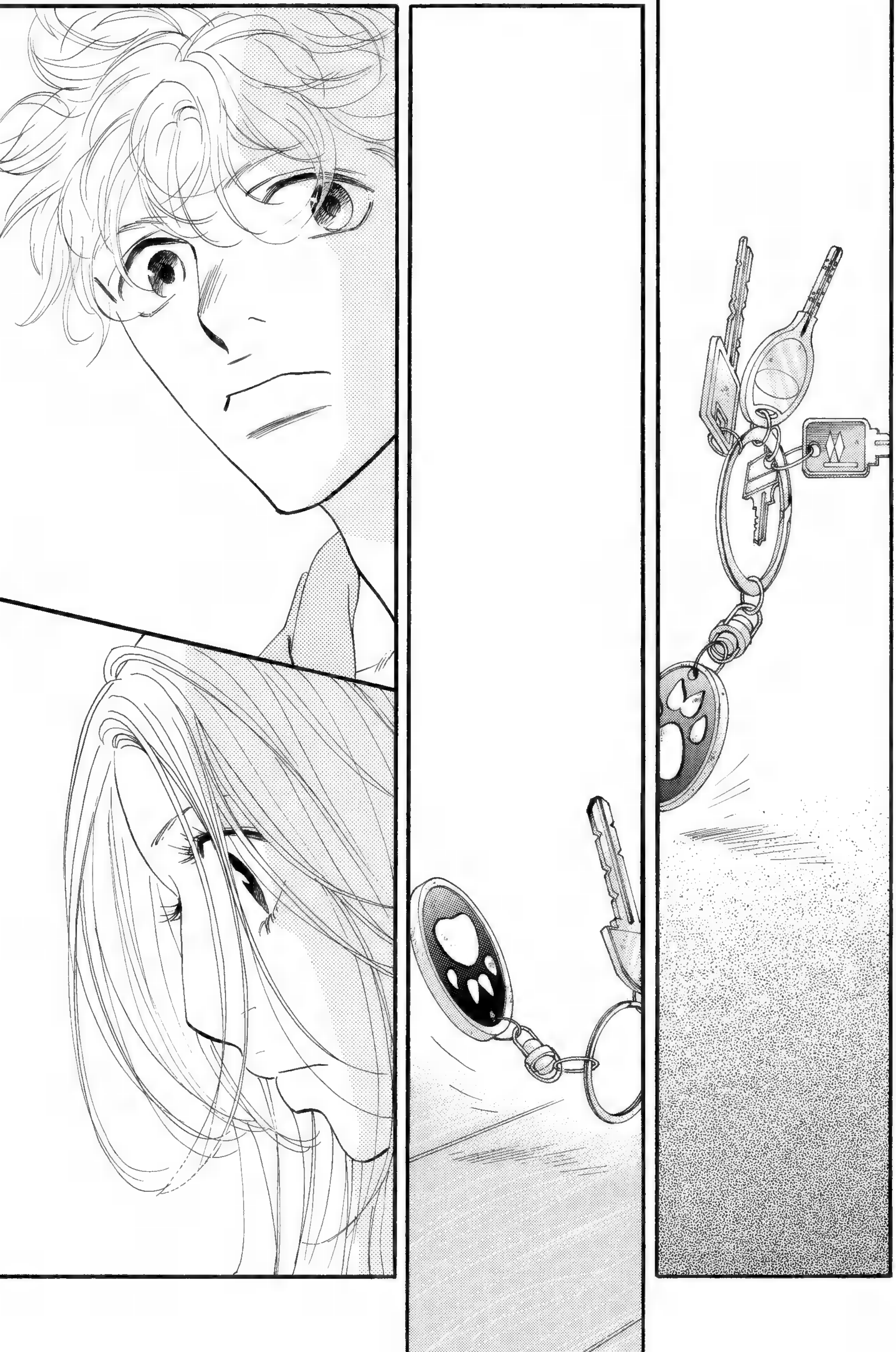

THIS KIND OF SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
I'M TOO HAPPY AND...
...IT'S REALLY JUST LIKE A DREAM...
HUH?
MOMO'S... NOT HERE.

TAKESHI.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP THERE.
HUH... OH.
MERCI.
DROOL
YOU WERE GRINNING LIKE A FOOL AND TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP, YOU KNOW.
WHAT? IT WAS A DREAM, HUH...
BAM BAM BAM BAM
?
SHIT! I WANTED TO EAT A MR. OCTOPUS HOT DOG BEFORE I WOKE UP!
AT LEAST I SHOULD HAVE FELT UP HER BOOBS!
SPRITZ
IT'S ONLY TWO AND A HALF HOURS BY EUROSTAR.
I COULD EVEN MAKE HIS MEALS FOR THE WHOLE WEEK AND FREEZE THEM...



*IN JAPAN, DIFFERENT KINDS OF GARBAGE GO OUT ON DIFFERENT DAYS.



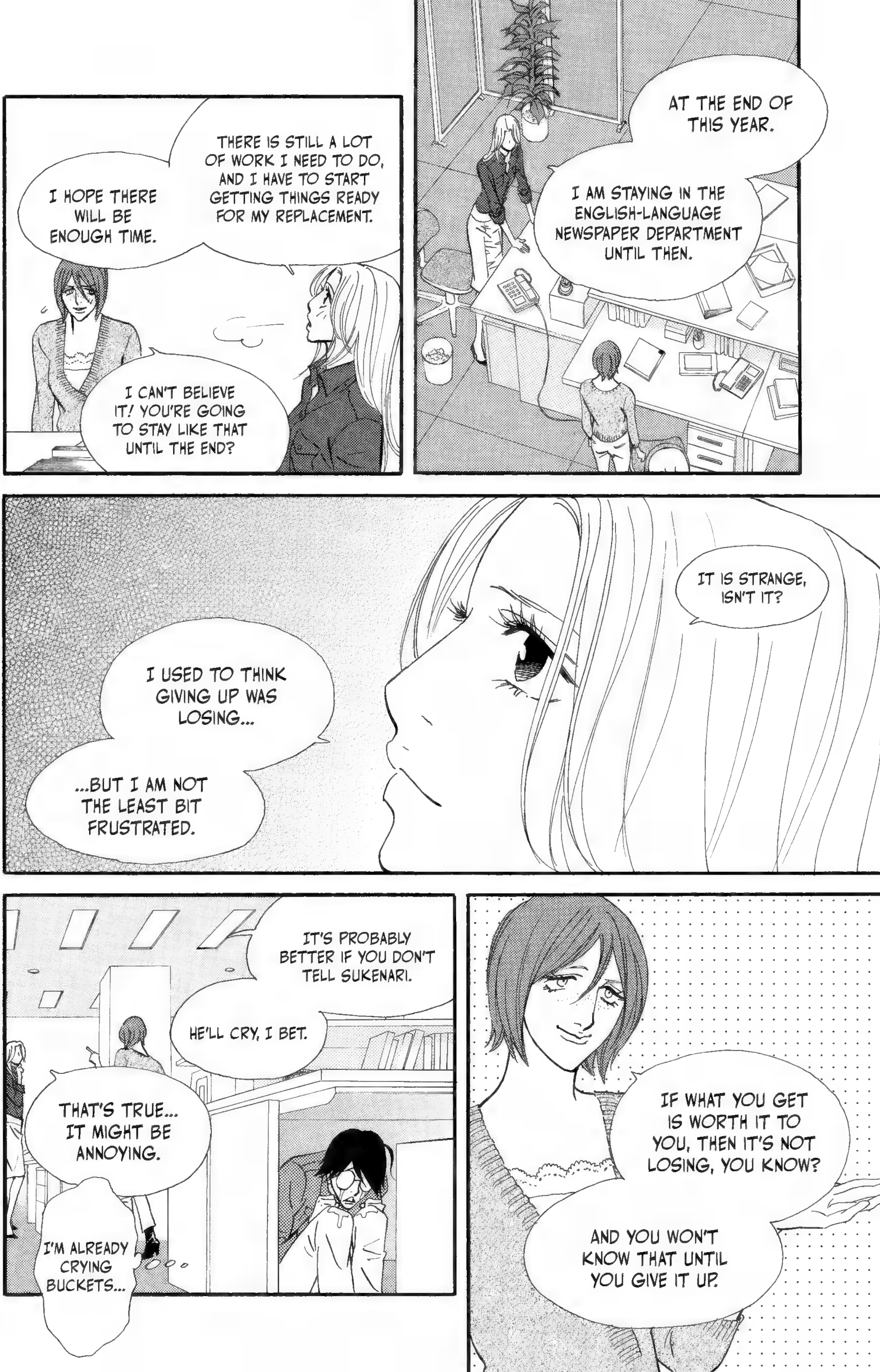


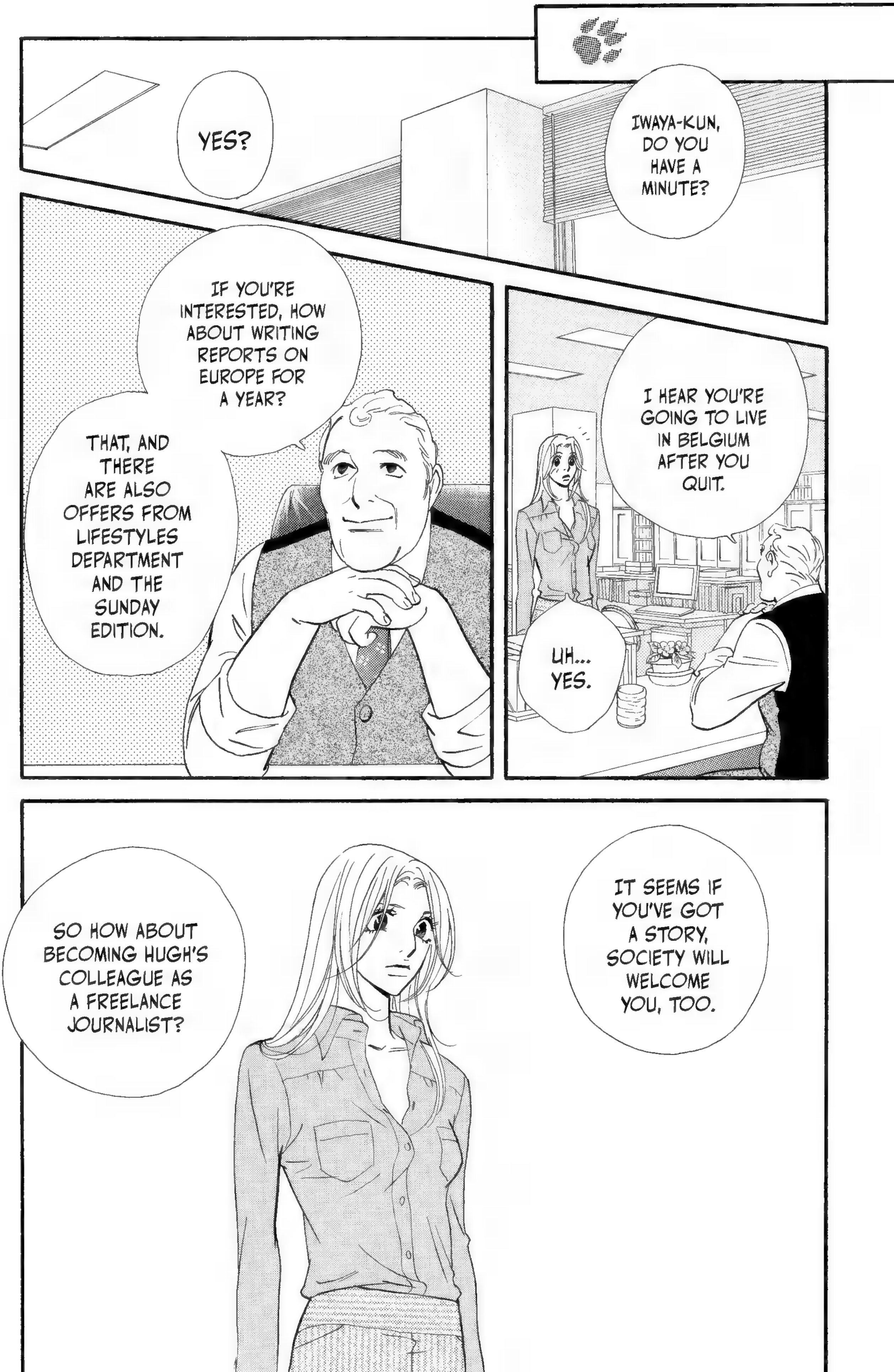
CALM DOWN AND SPEAK SLOWLY IN ENGLISH.
I WANT TO SEE YOU, TOO, BUT...
WHOA!
TAKESHI?!
I'M GOING RUNNING FOR A BIT!!
IS IT ABOUT RUMI, AFTER ALL?
SHOULD I SAY SOMETHING?

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS!
I REALLY...
...WANT TO SEE SUMIRE-CHAN!

PLOP
MOMO...

I REALIZED...
...THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I WANTED.
YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT?!


AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.
I AM STAYING IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT UNTIL THEN.
THERE IS STILL A LOT OF WORK I NEED TO DO, AND I HAVE TO START GETTING THINGS READY FOR MY REPLACEMENT.
I HOPE THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TIME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU'RE GOING TO STAY LIKE THAT UNTIL THE END?
IT IS STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
I USED TO THINK GIVING UP WAS LOSING...
...BUT I AM NOT THE LEAST BIT FRUSTRATED.
IF WHAT YOU GET IS WORTH IT TO YOU, THEN IT'S NOT LOSING, YOU KNOW?
AND YOU WON'T KNOW THAT UNTIL YOU GIVE IT UP.
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF YOU DON'T TELL SUKENARI.
HE'LL CRY, I BET.
THAT'S TRUE... IT MIGHT BE ANNOYING.
I'M ALREADY CRYING BUCKETS...

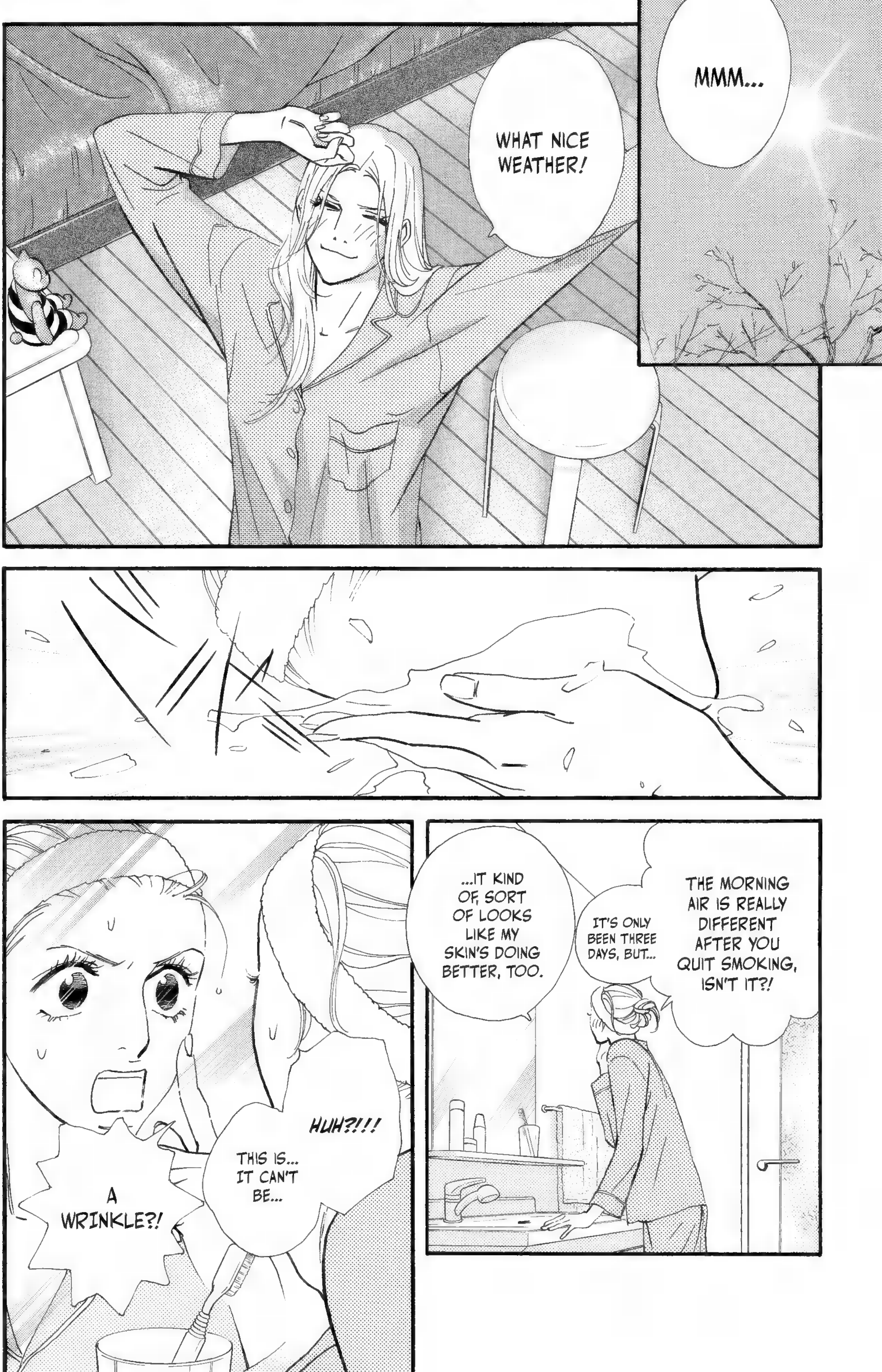

IWAYA-KUN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
YES?
I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE IN BELGIUM AFTER YOU QUIT.
UH... YES.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, HOW ABOUT WRITING REPORTS ON EUROPE FOR A YEAR?
THAT, AND THERE ARE ALSO OFFERS FROM LIFESTYLES DEPARTMENT AND THE SUNDAY EDITION.
IT SEEMS IF YOU'VE GOT A STORY, SOCIETY WILL WELCOME YOU, TOO.
SO HOW ABOUT BECOMING HUGH'S COLLEAGUE AS A FREELANCE JOURNALIST?

EXCUSE ME, KANEKO-SAN...
OH, IWAYA-KUN, LOOK.
THAT'S GREAT TIMING FOR A HIT.
D-DID YOU SET ALL THIS UP FOR ME?!
I REALLY LIKE THAT PLAYER.
YOU KNOW, HIS PLAYS DON'T GET SLOPPY, NO MATTER HOW BIG OF A LEAD HIS TEAM HAS.
SEE, HE JUST CAUGHT THE RUNNER TRYING TO STEAL A BASE.
USUALLY PEOPLE GET CONCEITED WHEN THEY'RE WINNING, AND THEY DO BAD WORK WHEN THEY LOSE.
HOWEVER, TRULY GREAT PLAYERS GIVE THEIR ALL, 100 PERCENT OF THE TIME.
IWAYA-KUN, YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO CAN DO THAT, TOO.

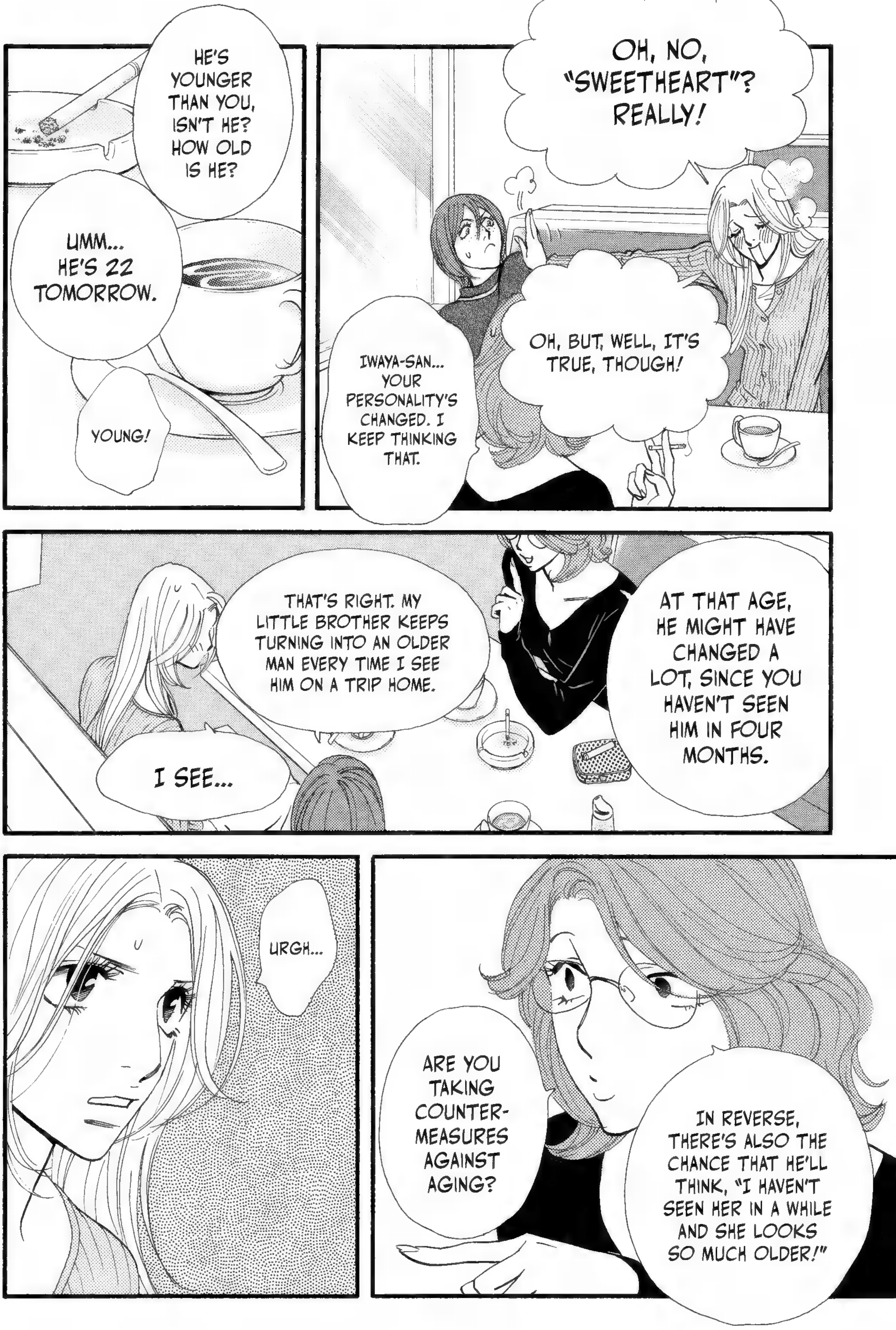
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT GETTING MARRIED...
...AND ALSO WHEN YOU COULDN'T GET THE JOB YOU WANTED...
...YOU ALWAYS DID YOUR JOB WELL.
EVERYONE WANTS TO WORK WITH YOU BECAUSE OF IT.
I JUST PASSED ALONG THE MESSAGE. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CREATED THE CHANCE.
OH, IWAYA-KUN, I HEAR YOU'RE FREELANCE NOW.
TOSS SOME GOOD STORIES TO OUR DEPARTMENT, TOO.
BELGIUM, IWAYA-SAN?
PLEASE COVER THE DANCE INDUSTRY! WE'LL NEGOTIATE WITH YOU ABOUT PAYING FOR THE RESEARCH COSTS, TOO.

REALLY POPULAR, AREN'T YOU, IWAYA?
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL AN UNSELFISH VICTORY?
DON'T FORGET ABOUT US!
OH, NO, ARE YOU CRYING?
I KNOW, THIS IS WHEN YOU SAY "EVEN THE DEVIL CRIES," RIGHT?
THAT IS A BIT RUDE.
GIVING UP CAN BE WINNING... SOMETIMES IT JUST MEANS WINNING IS POSSIBLE.
AND? WHY WERE YOU YELLING SO LOUD AT NIGHT?
B-BECAUSE IT WAS A NEW MOON?
YOU HOWL AT FULL MOONS.

RULE 76: GROW UP

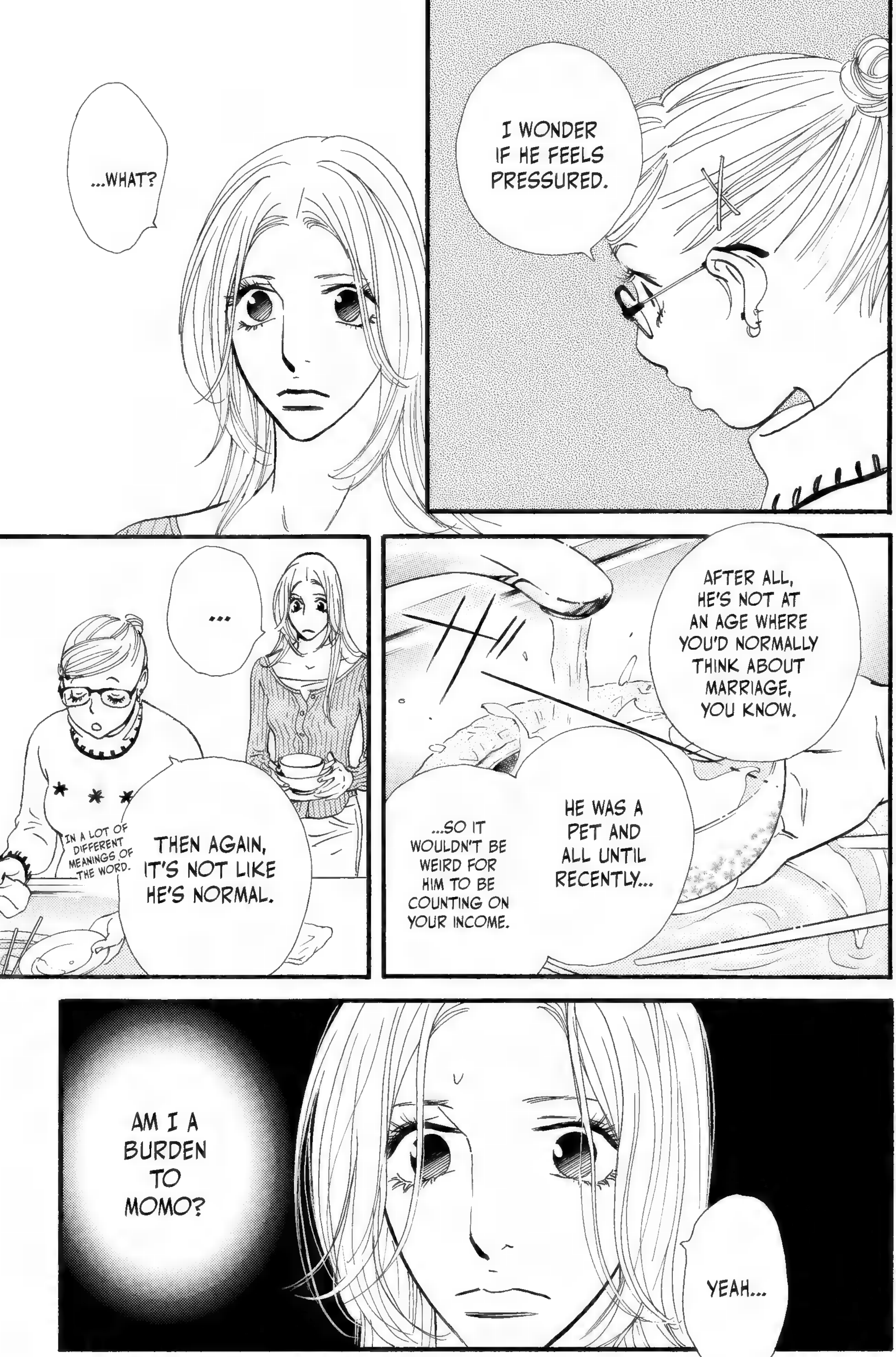

MMM...
WHAT NICE WEATHER!
THE MORNING AIR IS REALLY DIFFERENT AFTER YOU QUIT SMOKING, ISN'T IT?!
IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE DAYS, BUT...
...IT KIND OF, SORT OF LOOKS LIKE MY SKIN'S DOING BETTER, TOO.
HUH?!!!
THIS IS... IT CAN'T BE...
A WRINKLE?!

I KNOW THERE'S THAT..."YOU WILL NEED TO START USING THINGS LIKE THIS SOON, ALSO"... PRODUCT THAT BIG SISTER GAVE ME, SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
GOT IT!
IT'S EXPIRED BUT IT'S STILL SEALED, SO IT'S OKAY!!
I HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THIS ANTI-AGING STUFF FROM NOW ON!
IT'D BE HORRIBLE IF SOMEONE THOUGHT WE WERE PARENT AND CHILD WHEN I'M WITH MOMO...
MUST KEEP REFRIG-ERATED?!!
NOTE: SHE'S BEEN TALKING TO HERSELF THIS WHOLE TIME.
HOW EXCITING. YOU'LL GET TO SEE YOUR SWEETHEART FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.


OH, NO, "SWEETHEART"? REALLY!
OH, BUT, WELL, IT'S TRUE, THOUGH!
IWAYA-SAN... YOUR PERSONALITY'S CHANGED. I KEEP THINKING THAT.
HE'S YOUNGER THAN YOU, ISN'T HE? HOW OLD IS HE?
UMM... HE'S 22 TOMORROW.
YOUNG!
AT THAT AGE, HE MIGHT HAVE CHANGED A LOT, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN FOUR MONTHS.
THAT'S RIGHT. MY LITTLE BROTHER KEEPS TURNING INTO AN OLDER MAN EVERY TIME I SEE HIM ON A TRIP HOME.
I SEE...
IN REVERSE, THERE'S ALSO THE CHANCE THAT HE'LL THINK, "I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A WHILE AND SHE LOOKS SO MUCH OLDER!"
ARE YOU TAKING COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST AGING?
URGH...

WELL, SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.
BLACK VINEGAR AND YOMEISHU* MORNING AND NIGHT.
LIKE THIS...
YOU ALREADY SMELL LIKE OLD LADY, DON'T YOU?
* A TRADITIONAL HERBAL-BLEND MEDICINE.
THAT'S NOT IT, THOUGH. WHAT SHE MEANT WAS THAT THE LITTLE CHANGES YOU DON'T NOTICE WHEN YOU SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY ARE NOTICEABLE WHEN YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE.
OH...I SEE. AFTER ALL, SHINICHI-SAN IS GONE A LOT, TOO, HUH?
YOU THINK SO? SO I HAVE TO DO THOSE BOTOX INJECTIONS, PLACENTA INJECTIONS, HYALURONIC ACID TREATMENTS AND COLON CLEANSING...
WELL, I WOULDN'T STOP YOU.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING FOR? YOU WERE GOING TO SEE THE DANCE RECITAL, RIGHT?
YEAH. I'LL ARRIVE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE AND STAY FOR THREE NIGHTS.
THE END-OF-YEAR PROMOTIONS ARE CLOSE, AND I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE DAYS OFF.

WHAT?
HMM...
SMIRK
AND I'M PLANNING ON STAYING HERE.
LET'S SEE HERE. HOTEL AMICO... WOW, WHAT AN AMAZING LUXURY HOTEL.
RIGHT? I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
WELL, YOU CAN'T GET TOO BUSY IN A ROOM WITH THE ROOMMATE AROUND, CAN YOU?
HUH, JUST WHAT...
SLAP SLAP
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. BUT THIS TIME, MAKE SURE YOU GO FOR IT.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU ALREADY TELL THE KID YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT YOUR JOB?
YEP.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER STARTING IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR.
YOU'RE GOING TO GO FOR IT?
WHO KNOWS?

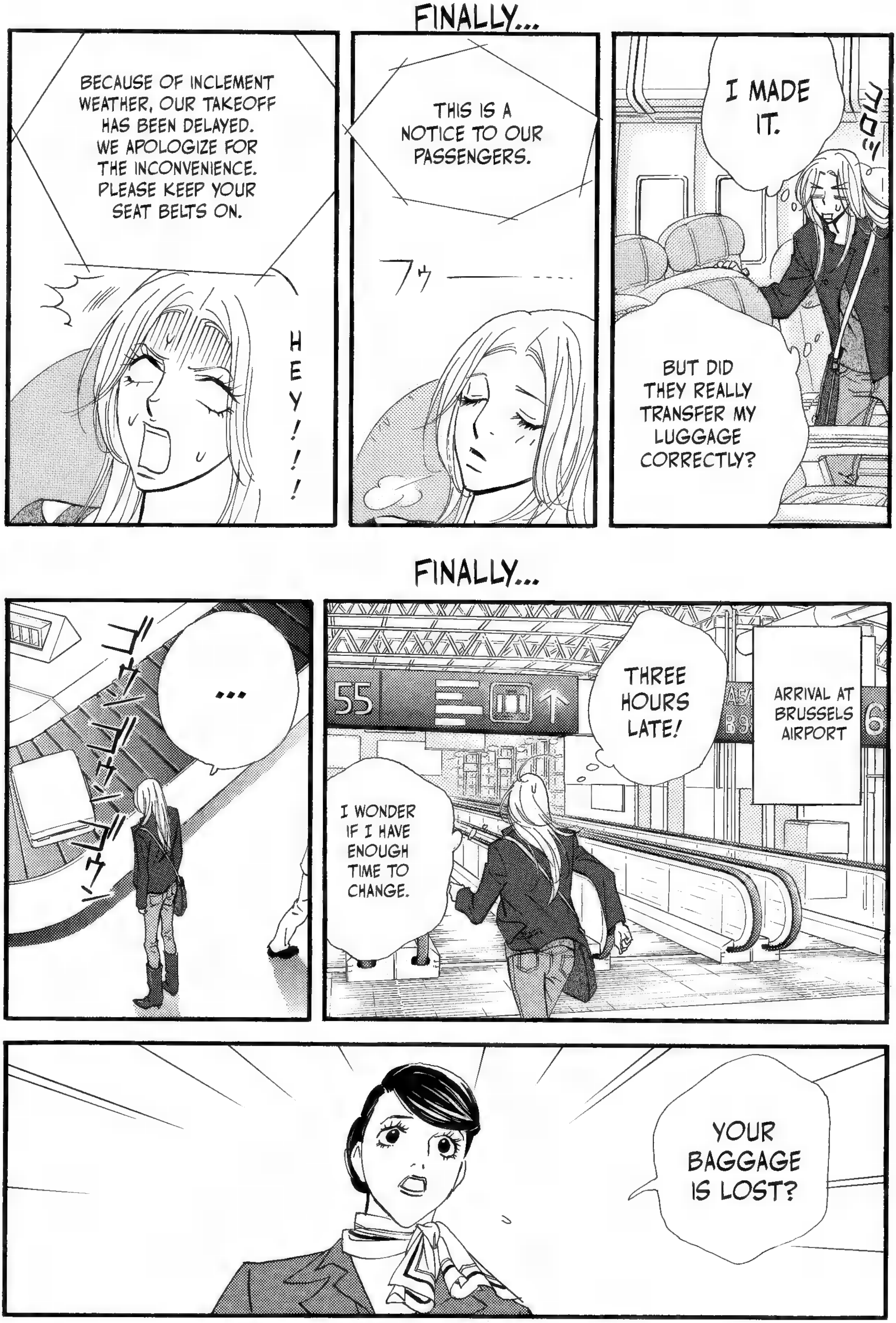

I WONDER IF HE FEELS PRESSURED.
...WHAT?
AFTER ALL, HE'S NOT AT AN AGE WHERE YOU'D NORMALLY THINK ABOUT MARRIAGE, YOU KNOW.
HE WAS A PET AND ALL UNTIL RECENTLY...
...SO IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD FOR HIM TO BE COUNTING ON YOUR INCOME.
...
THEN AGAIN, IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S NORMAL.
IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF THE WORD.
YEAH...
AM I A BURDEN TO MOMO?

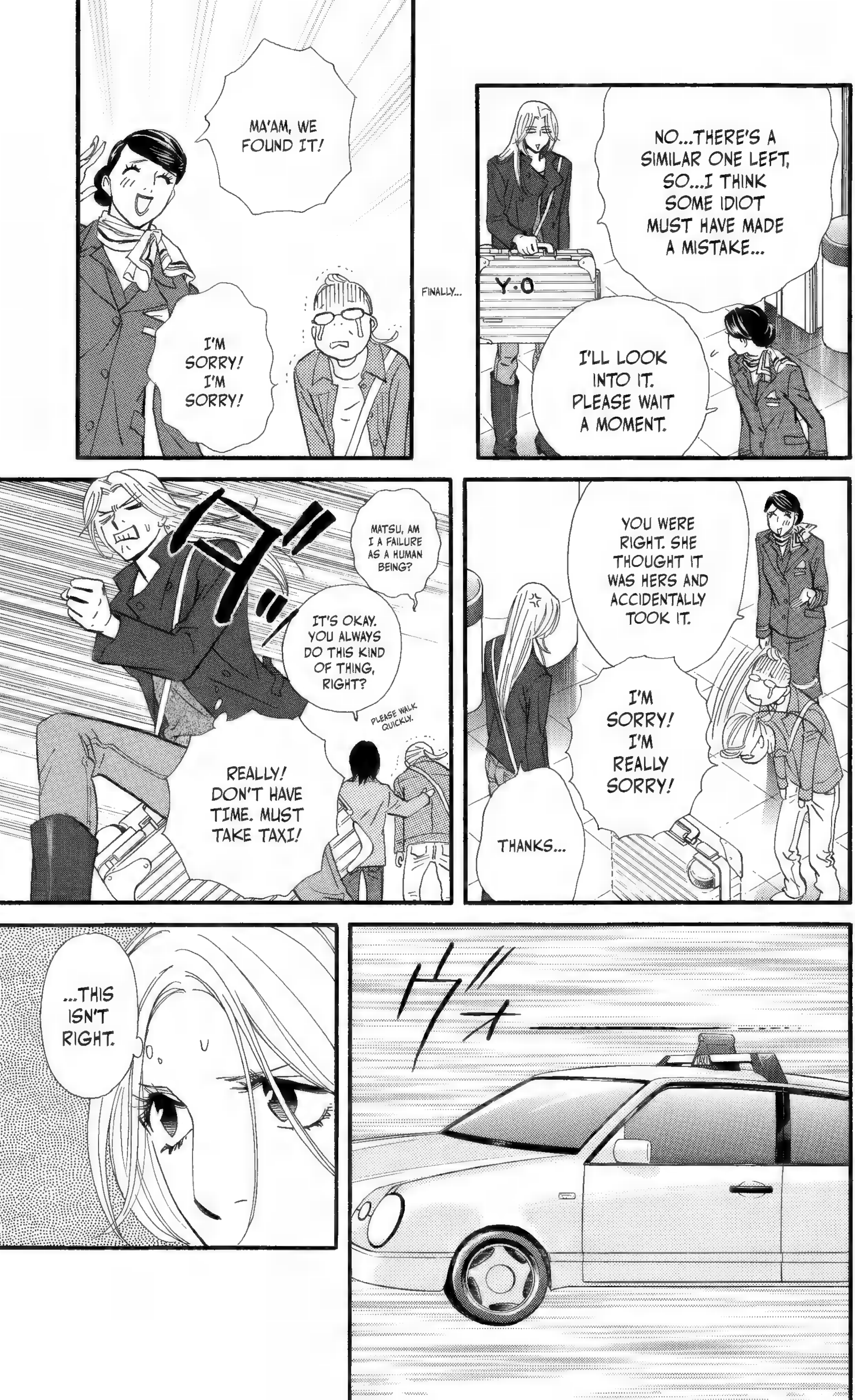
THE PRESENT CAME!
I REALLY LIKE IT!! I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO WEAR IT AT MY NEXT PERFORMANCE, OKAY?!
PENDANT.
THANKS, SUMIRE-CHAN.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
HIS HAIR HAS GROWN QUITE A BIT.
LET'S MEET IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF SERCLAES WHEN YOU ARRIVE.
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT! IF YOU TOUCH THE STATUE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BECOME HAPPY.
IT'S CLOSE TO THE HOTEL YOU'RE GOING TO STAY AT, TOO, SUMIRE-CHAN.
THERE'S AN AFTERNOON SHOW ON THE LAST DAY, SO AFTER THAT... HOW ABOUT THREE P.M.?
IS THAT GOING TO BE OKAY? MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER AFTER THE NIGHT SHOW'S OVER...
IT'LL BE FINE, FINE.
SUMIRE-CHAN, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET LOST, EITHER, OKAY?
LIKE YOU SHOULD TALK?
HOW IS IT GOING?
HOW'S YOUR HEALTH? THOSE SEIZURES AND STUFF.
TOTALLY FINE. AND I HAVE MEDICINE JUST IN CASE, TOO.
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED?

I WONDER IF HE FEELS PRESSURED.
NOTHING... I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
MOMO'S JUST STARTED HEADING TOWARD HIS DREAMS.
I'M SURE HE'S FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE...
AND THEN ME ON TOP OF IT ALL, AT A TIME LIKE THIS...IT'S DEFINITELY...
...LIKE YURI SAID. NORMALLY, IT WOULD BE ADDED PRESSURE, WOULDN'T IT?
I THOUGHT BEING BY HIS SIDE WAS SUPPORTING HIM, BUT...
MAYBE... NO, I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW.
I'M SORRY, MOMO.
I JUST WANT TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.

FINALLY, THE DAY OF REUNIFICATION.
MAMA, THAT LADY'S FACE IS WEIRD.
SHH!
COUNTER-MEASURE AGAINST AGING
THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN.
HMM?
BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER, OUR DESCENT INTO OUR DESTINATION, FRANKFURT, HAS BEEN DELAYED.
WHAT?
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
BUT THAT'S... I HAVE A TRANSFER, YOU KNOW!
AND I ONLY HAD AN HOUR TO CHANGE PLANES!

FRANKFURT INTER-NATIONAL AIRPORT
WHERE'S GATE 19? GATE 19!
I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AND I'M STILL NOT THERE?
IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN AFTER A LONG FLIGHT.
AM I GOING THE WRONG WAY?
EXCUSE ME, MISTER...
BITTE?
HUH?
THIS IS HOW IT SOUNDS TO SUMIRE.
I SOMETHING OR OTHER SOMETHING ELSE MORE ASK?
UH... UMM...
YES, IT'S TRUE...
I SAW IT!!
I THOUGHT THAT I'D BE UNDERSTOOD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS LONG AS I KNEW ENGLISH.
I-SAN, WHO HAS EXPERIENCE AS A EXCHANGE STUDENT IN AMERICA. (29)


FINALLY...
I MADE IT.
BUT DID THEY REALLY TRANSFER MY LUGGAGE CORRECTLY?
THIS IS A NOTICE TO OUR PASSENGERS.
フゥ
BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, OUR TAKEOFF HAS BEEN DELAYED. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR SEAT BELTS ON.
HEY!!!
FINALLY...
ARRIVAL AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT
THREE HOURS LATE!
I WONDER IF I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CHANGE.
...
YOUR BAGGAGE IS LOST?


NO...THERE'S A SIMILAR ONE LEFT, SO...I THINK SOME IDIOT MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE...
I'LL LOOK INTO IT. PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
Y.O
FINALLY...
MA'AM, WE FOUND IT!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
YOU WERE RIGHT. SHE THOUGHT IT WAS HERS AND ACCIDENTALLY TOOK IT.
I'M SORRY! I'M REALLY SORRY!
THANKS...
MATSU, AM I A FAILURE AS A HUMAN BEING?
IT'S OKAY. YOU ALWAYS DO THIS KIND OF THING, RIGHT?
PLEASE WALK QUICKLY.
REALLY! DON'T HAVE TIME. MUST TAKE TAXI!
...THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

JUICY, HONJYARARE? HONYURAPA? HONYARABUU?
←THIS IS WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO SUMIRE.
...
QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?
HUH?
ACCORDING TO THE GUIDE, IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE 20 MINUTES TO GET TO THE CITY...
EXCUSE ME. ARE WE THERE YET?
TALK IN AN EARTH LANGUAGE! LET ME OUT RIGHT NOW!!
YOU! DON'T TRY TO TRICK ME WITH UNINTELLIGIBLE WORDS!
NO, NON!
SCARED BY A JAPANESE STRANGER WHO SUDDENLY SNAPS.
SUMIRE-CHAN... IS SURE LATE.

SHE DIDN'T GET LOST OR SOMETHING, DID SHE?
OKAY, SAY CHEESE!
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU PLEASE TAKE OUR PICTURE?
UH, SURE.
WE SHOULD ALREADY BE TOGETHER...
I WANT TO SEE HER SO BAD.

PAANT
PAANT
PAANT
AS IF HE'D STILL BE HERE...
AFTER ALL, IT'S ALMOST SIX.
I'D BETTER HURRY OR I WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PERFORMANCE, EITHER.
BUT...I CAN'T GO ON ANYMORE WITHOUT EATING OR DRINKING SOMETHING.
IF YOU TOUCH THE STATUE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BECOME HAPPY.
EVERYONE REALLY DOES TOUCH IT.
I WONDER IF IT'S KARMA...
...BECAUSE I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF.

MAYBE I REALLY AM A BURDEN TO MOMO NOW.
MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I JUST DON'T SEE HIM ANYMORE...
...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN BECOME HAPPY BY JUST WISHING, BUT...
...BUT PLEASE.
BRING HAPPINESS INTO OUR FUTURE.

SO YOU COULDN'T SEE HER AT ALL?
YEAH.
THEATRE ROYAL DE LA MONNAIE
YOU'RE WORRIED, RIGHT? IF YOU KNOW HER SEAT NUMBER, I'LL GO LOOK.
NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
I KNOW SHE'LL COME.
HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HMM...
MAYBE IT'S THAT PET'S INTUITION I'VE POLISHED UP OVER THE YEARS.

I BARELY MADE IT...
OH.
I'M WATCHING, OKAY?
MOMO... I'M RIGHT HERE.

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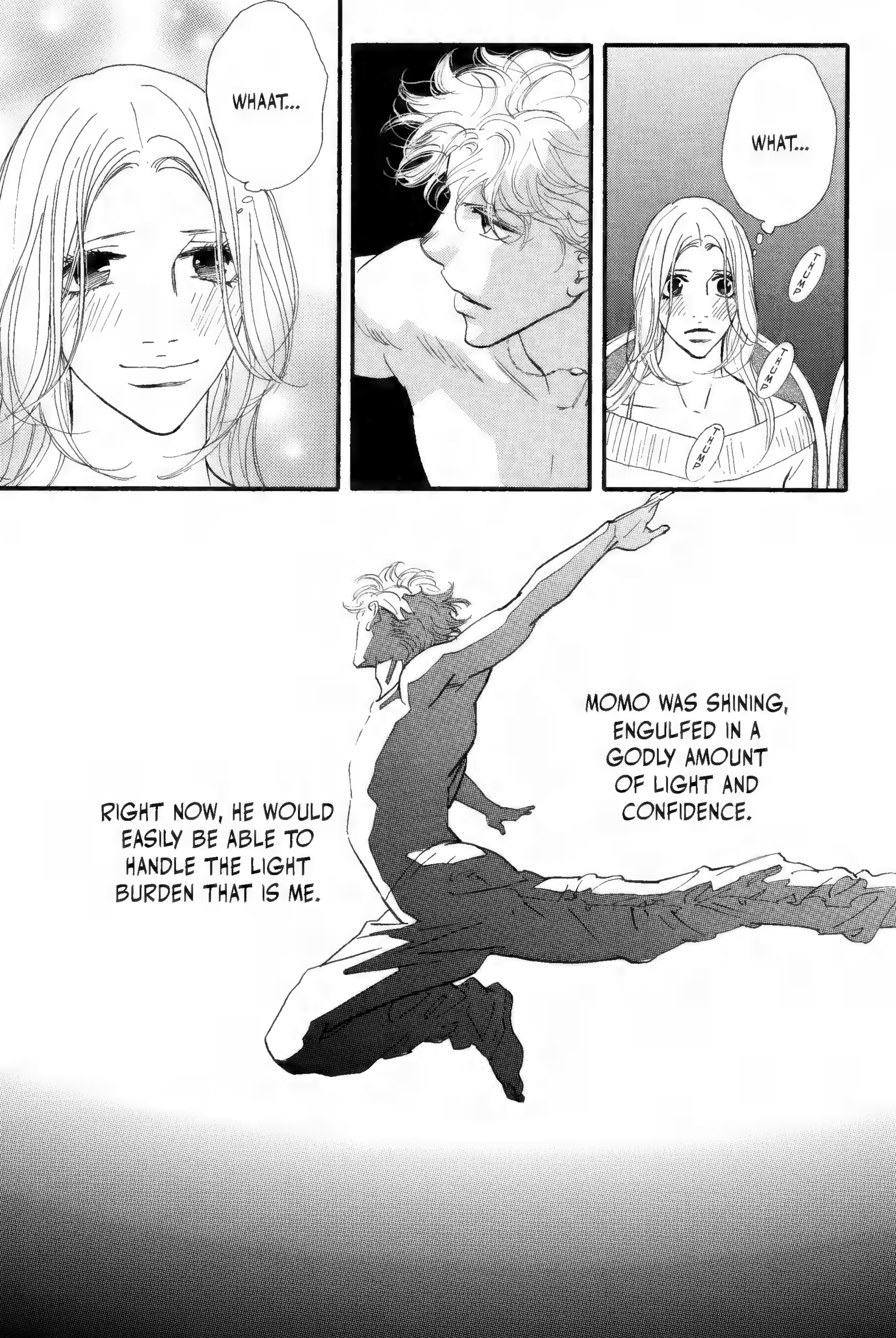
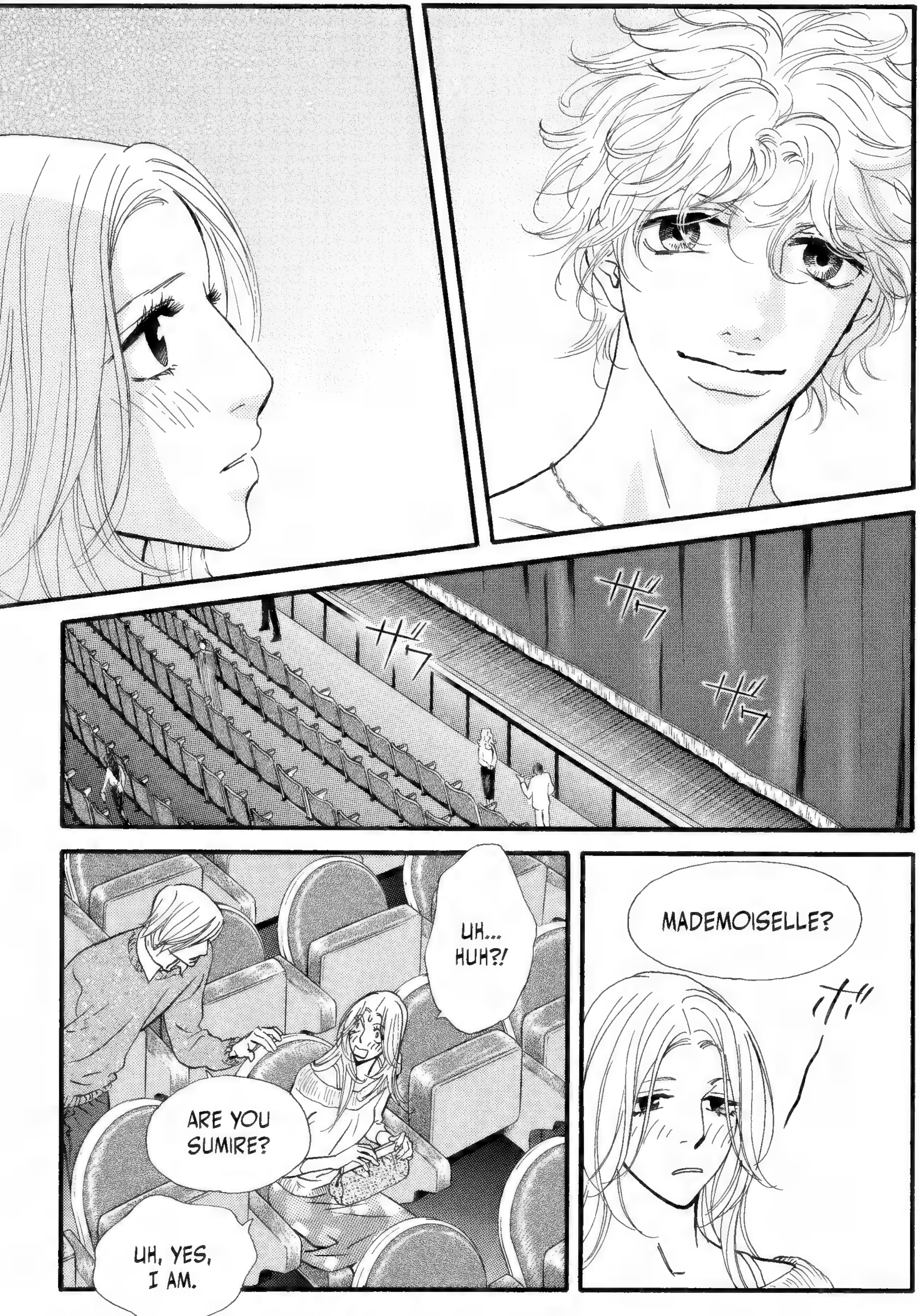

WHAT...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHAAT...
MOMO WAS SHINING, ENGULFED IN A GODLY AMOUNT OF LIGHT AND CONFIDENCE.
RIGHT NOW, HE WOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE LIGHT BURDEN THAT IS ME.

BRAVO!
BRAVOO!


ザワ
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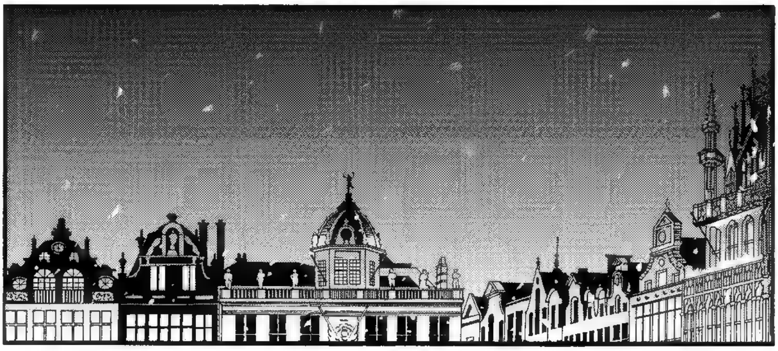
MADEMOISELLE?
UH... HUH?!
ARE YOU SUMIRE?
UH, YES, I AM.

THIS IS FROM TAKESHI.
MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GRAND PLACE IN AN HOUR, MO.

I'M IN HEAVEN.
STUPID...

LU LU LU...
EVERY TIME WE MAKE LOVE,
THE WORLD STOPS.
IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT TIME...
WE BOTH GO.
THE NIGHT DOESN'T PASS.
THE STARS DON'T DISAPPEAR.
ONLY THE SONG OF LOVE ECHOES.
TIME STOPS...
...FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN LOVE.
--FROM "YOAKE MAE NO SCAT," BY SAORI YUKI

TO BE CONTINUED...



SHE WAS SO CUTE THAT I UNCONSCIOUSLY WANTED TO SEXUALLY HARASS HER. I HOPE SHE BECOMES A WONDERFUL BALLERINA!

↖ OF COURSE SHE'S NOT A NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER EITHER. EVERYONE'S SO SMART, HUH?

YOU CAN SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR RESEARCH IN VOLUME 14, TOO.

OGAWA-SAN, YOU EVALUATED OUT LOUD A LOT, TOO, DIDN'T YOU? PLUS, YOU GOT ALL EXCITED LIKE AN OLD MAN OVER THE CUTE OWNER (HE LOOKED LIKE AL PACINO) OF THE SPANISH RESTAURANT AND EVEN TOOK A PICTURE--DIDN'T YOU?

AND NO MATTER HOW FUNNY IT IS, PLEASE STOP SHOWING MY BATHROBE PHOTO TO YOUR HUSBAND, ASSISTANTS AND EVERYONE ELSE. I'M STILL NOT MARRIED YET.

MAIN STAFFS

original stories & graphics by YAYOI OGAWA
editor in charge • • • M•MATSUI
graphic assistants • • • K•YOSHIHISA, N•SHIMA
K•OHTA, Y•SHIROMARU
A•KOYANO

CHECK IT!

YAYOI OGAWA OFFICIAL SITE

EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP

http://www.linkclub.or.jp/~asasin/

VOLUME COMMENTARY!

RULE 71: YOUR SMILE

O: I COULDN'T DECIDE ON THE TITLE, AND WHILE I WAS UNDECIDED, I THOUGHT, "IF YOU READ THE ENGLISH WORD "SMILE" LIKE IT'S JAPANESE, THEN IT'S 'SUMIRE,' ISN'T IT?" I THOUGHT IT WAS A BRILLIANT IDEA THEN, BUT IT WAS JUST A PLAY ON WORDS.
THE CACTUS ON SUMIRE'S DESK IS BLOOMING.

M: "THANK YOU FOR COMING," "I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, MOMO," OR "IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?"; OGAWA-SAN AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW SUMIRE WOULD CONFESS HER FEELINGS TO MOMO, BUT IT WAS REALLY EMBARRASSING. WE WERE BOTH SUMIRE-LEVEL HARD-BOILED EGGS IN SOME RESTAURANT IN SHINJUKU.

RULE 71: GUARDIAN

O: THE AORI THAT WAS ON THE FRONT PAGE THIS TIME, "THESE WINGS ARE FOR YOU!!" WAS PRETTY GREAT. THANK YOU, MA-CHAN.
HASUMI-SAN WAS PITIABLE THIS TIME, WASN'T HE? LOTS OF THINGS HAPPEN IN LIFE. YOU NEED ORDEALS LIKE THAT.
BY THE WAY, P.A.R.T.S WAS THE MODEL FOR ROSAS, THE SCHOOL MOMO GOES TO THAT HAS THE DANCE COMPANY.

M: THIS TIME I FORGOT THAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A COLOR PAGE AND I GOT THE NUMBER OF PAGES WRONG; THE TWO MISTAKES THAT AN EDITOR'S NEVER SUPPOSED TO MAKE. I DID BOTH! BUT OGAWA-SAN FINISHED THE COLOR PAGE IN ONE DAY AND WROTE THE LAST PAGE IN A HURRY SO THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, OGAWA-SAN. (SOB.)

RULE 73: THE HEART OF LOVE

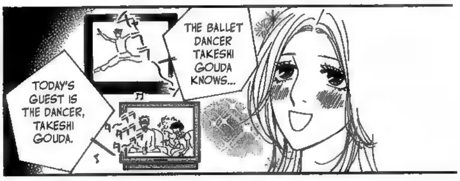
O: DID KODAN LAND ACCOMPLISH ITS ADVANCE INTO EUROPE? KUMANGO-KUN SEEMS TO BE POPULAR WITH THE GALS OF THE WORLD.
"LISTEN TO MY SONG"...BUT I'VE ONLY SEE THE FIRST SEASON OF ROBOTECH. IT'S TRUE.*

*ROBOTECH, AN OLDER ANIME, WAS ABOUT FIGHTING ALIENS WITH THE POWER OF SONG.

M: WE HAD A LOT OF FUN AT THE MEETING WITH SUMIRE'S DELUSIONS. OGAWA-SAN IS PRONE TO DELUSIONS, TOO. THE "VIRTUAL DATE" AT THE END ORIGINALLY CAME FROM A "VIRTUAL WALK" IDEA WHEN MOMO WAS STILL A PET. IT WAS REBORN AND MADE A REMARKABLE DEBUT.

RULE 74: JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU

O: I TRIED TO CREATE A KEITH MICHAELS-LOOKING PERSON FOR THE ART DIRECTOR AT ROSAS, BUT IF I HAD TO SAY WHO SHE LOOKS LIKE NOW, IT'S MORE OF A PINA BAUSCH.
I THOUGHT MAYBE THE MARY MAGDALENE BEHIND FUKUSHIMA-SAN WAS A LITTLE TOO BLATANT, BUT I LIKE IT BECAUSE MY ASSISTANT FINISHED IT UP NICELY.
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS MY HUSBAND'S LIFELONG DREAM IS TO APPEAR IN A NESCAFE COMMERCIAL.



M: I WAS IMPRESSED BECAUSE THE P.A.R.T.S. BUILDING WAS EXACTLY LIKE THE REAL ONE.
WE HAD A LOT OF FUN AT THE MEETING WITH SUMIRE'S DELUSIONS AGAIN.

RULE 75: NEVER SAY DIE

O: TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT SUMIRE SHOULD DO UNTIL THE VERY, VERY END. HOWEVER, I DO THINK IT WAS THE MOST SUMIRE-LIKE CHOICE.
BY THE WAY, HOW DO YOU SAY "BECAUSE IT'S A NEW MOON" IN FRENCH? MOMO'S VOCABULARY IS AMAZING.

M: THIS WORK REALLY SHOWS OFF OGAWA-SAN'S SKILLS. I LOVE THIS EPISODE BECAUSE SUMIRE'S DECISION IS DRAWN VERY NATURALLY. THE TIMING OF SUMIRE CRYING IS ALSO WONDERFUL. THAT, AND THE SCENE WITH THE THREE MEN IN THE OUTDOOR BATH AT THE BEGINNING. ANIMATE'S "ANIME TENCHOU SERIES"* WAS THE MODEL FOR THAT, WASN'T IT? IT WAS ALSO A WORK THAT BURNED WITH OGAWA-SAN'S OTAKU SPIRIT.

*ANIMATE IS AN ANIMATION MAGAZINE IN JAPAN. "TENCHOU" MEANS STORE MANAGER.

RULE 76: GROW UP

O: MATSU AND I TOUCHED THE STATUE OF SERCLAES, TOO. THANKS TO THAT, I AM NOW HAPPY.
TO THE PEOPLE WHO LET ME INTERVIEW THEM, P.A.R.T.S, THE ROYAL MONNAIE THEATRE AND THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL OF ANTWERP--THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. I'LL BE DRAWING A LOT OF BELGIUM IN VOLUME 14, TOO.

M: THE STATUE OF SERCLAES LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE REAL THING, TOO. THAT WASN'T AN ASSISTANT; OGAWA-SAN HERSELF PUT HER HEART AND SOUL INTO THAT ILLUSTRATION.
THE GRAND PLACE IS AMAZING, TOO. IT SEEMS IT TOOK OGAWA-SAN AND HER ASSISTANT ABOUT FOUR DAYS TO FINISH IT.

REPRESENTING THE HASUOTA (SHORT FOR HASUMI OTAKU) ACROSS THE NATION, OGAWA-SAN'S ASSISTANT, K-KO, AND EDITOR, MATSU, PICK OUT THE BEST HOT SCENES!! GATHER 'ROUND, HASUOTA!

WE EVALUATE HASUMI-SAN'S BEST SCENES!!

HASUOTA MINISTER OF THE RIGHT MATSU'S BEST OF HASUMI

"...SAY, 'I QUIT.'"

[VOLUME 11, PAGE 57]

MATSU: MECHA HASUMI-KUN'S THE BEST!! HASUMI-SAN'S SUPER "S"-NESS* IS SERIOUSLY HOT!! SUMIRE MUST REALLY BE A MANIAC TO SEE THESE KIND OF DREAMS, EH?
K-KO: AFTER ALL, MATSU-SAN, YOU ARE A SUPER "M," YOU KNOW. I'M AN "S," SO THIS HASUMI-SAN ISN'T FOR ME.

* "S" STANDS FOR SADIST; "M" STANDS FOR MASOCHIST.

"WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU?"

[VOLUME 13, PAGE 41]

MATSU: THIS IS ANOTHER SHINING EXAMPLE OF HASUMI-SAN'S SUPER "S"-NESS.
K-KO: MATSU-SAN'S PATHOLOGY IS GRADUALLY BECOMING APPARENT. IT MAKES NORMAL PEOPLE CRINGE...

"I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY."

[VOLUME 12, PAGE 149]

MATSU: I'M GOING TO CRY, HASUMI-SAN! IF IT WAS ME, HASUMI-SAN, IT'D DEFINITELY BE YOU OVER MOMO!
K-KO: DID THE EDITOR JUST REFUTE THE WHOLE SERIES?

HASUOTA MINISTER OF THE LEFT

VS

HASUOTA MINISTER OF THE RIGHT

ASSISTANT K-KO AND EDITOR MATSU'S...

HASUOTA MINISTER OF THE LEFT K-KO'S BEST OF HASUMI

"COME HERE."

[VOLUME 1, PAGE 103]

K-KO: THE SIGHT OF A SUCH A LITTLE THING MAKING FUN OF SUCH A BIG PERSON IS HOT! MICK IS CUTE, TOO.
MATSUI: WELL, YOU WIN. HASUMI-SAN JUST BARELY APPEARS THERE! SO YOU'RE THE REAL HASUOTA...

"...DOING THIS REALLY MAKES ME RELAX."

[VOLUME 3, PAGE 20]

K-KO: IT'S HOT HOW HE LOOKS DEFENSELESS LIKE THAT. EVEN SO, HASUMI-SAN'S LINES HERE ARE AMAZING, AREN'T THEY? NO ONE WOULD SAY THAT NORMALLY; IT'S TOO BLATANT.
MATSU: I LIKE THIS SCENE, TOO! I WANT HIM TO USE MY THIGHS AS HIS PILLOW.

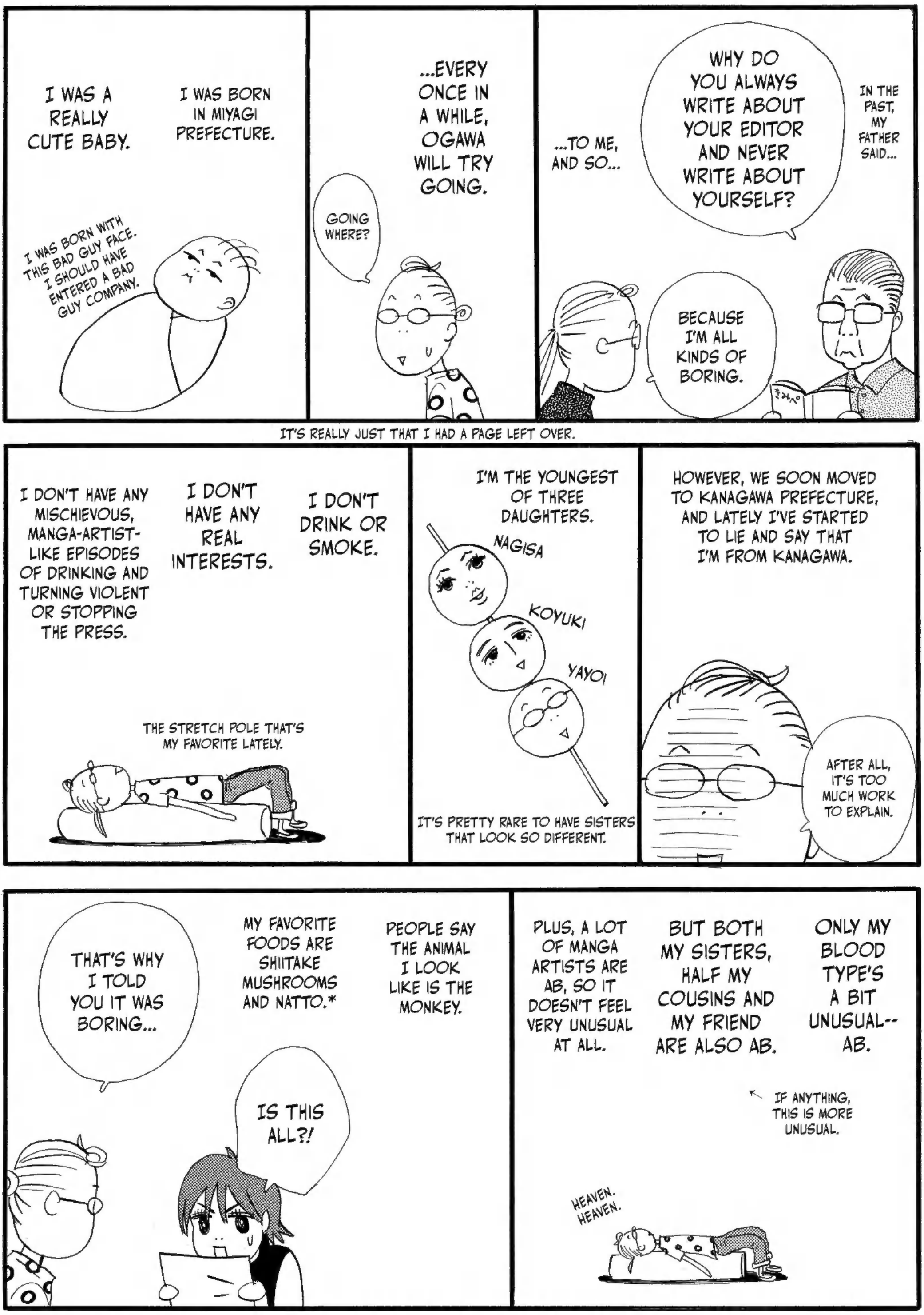
"NO, UM?!"

[VOLUME 3, PAGE 80]

K-KO: HOT FOR THE SAME REASON AS NUMBER ONE.
MATSU: K-KO-SAN, YOU'RE TOTALLY "S," AREN'T YOU? OR SHOULD I SAY THAT THIS CORNER HAS JUST BECOME OUR S & M BATTLE, HASN'T IT?

OGAWA COMES AND GOES!!

PROBABLY THE LAST EPISODE.



*FERMENTED SOYBEANS.

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English digital edition published by KodanshaAdvanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

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ISBN: 9781642127829

Digital Edition: 1.0.0